



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS**

**ON THE**

***ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT***

***OF 1998, AS AMENDED,***

**FOR FISCAL YEAR**

**2006**



**ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE  
*ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998*, AS AMENDED,  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

2009



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January 2009

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ABLE</b>	Assistive Bank of Loan-able Equipment	<b>ATI</b>	Access Technologies, Inc.
<b>ADRS</b>	Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services	<b>ATinNH</b>	Assistive Technology in New Hampshire
<b>AEA</b>	Area Education Agency	<b>ATK</b>	Assistive Technology for Kansans
<b>AFP</b>	Alternative Financing Program	<b>ATLA</b>	Assistive Technology of Alaska
<b>AFTAP</b>	Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Project	<b>ATLFA</b>	Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority
<b>ARS</b>	Arkansas Rehabilitation Services	<b>ATMn*</b>	Assistive Technology Minnesota
<b>ASATS</b>	American Samoa Assistive Technology Service Project	<b>AT Ohio</b>	Assistive Technology of Ohio
<b>ASB</b>	American Savings Bank	<b>ATP</b>	Colorado Assistive Technology Partners
<b>AT</b>	Assistive Technology	<b>ATP</b>	Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership
<b>ATAC</b>	Assistive Technology Advocacy Center	<b>ATPDC</b>	Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia
<b>ATAP</b>	Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs	<b>ATRC</b>	Assistive Technology Resource Centers
<b>ATAP</b>	Assistive Technology Access Partnership	<b>ATTAIN</b>	Assistive Technology Through Action in Indiana
<b>ATDT</b>	AT Development Team	<b>ATX</b>	AT Xchange
<b>ATEL</b>	Assistive Technology Equipment Loan	<b>AzLAT</b>	Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology
<b>ATELP</b>	Assistive Technology Equipment Lending Program	<b>AzLAT-T</b>	Arizona Loans for AT-Telework Program
<b>ATEX</b>	Arizona Assistive Technology Equipment Exchange	<b>AzTAP</b>	Arizona Technology Access Program
<b>ATEX</b>	Assistive Technology Exchange List	<b>BHSSC</b>	Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
<b>ATEx</b>	AT Exchange Program	<b>BOLD</b>	Borrow-to-Own Low-vision Devices
<b>ATF</b>	Access to Telework Fund	<b>CATS</b>	California Assistive Technology Systems Program
<b>AT/IL</b>	Assistive Technology for Independent Living	<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organization

<b>CCP</b>	Coconut Connection Program	<b>DRS</b>	Division of Rehabilitation Services
<b>CDD</b>	Center for Disabilities and Development	<b>DRS</b>	Department of Rehabilitative Services
<b>CEDDERS</b>	Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (Guam)	<b>DTELP</b>	Delaware Telework Equipment Loan Program
<b>CIL</b>	Center for Independent Living	<b>DVR</b>	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
<b>CITE</b>	Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange (Maine)	<b>ED</b>	U.S. Department of Education
<b>CNMI</b>	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	<b>EDGAR</b>	Education Department General Administrative Regulations
<b>CREATE</b>	Citizens Reutilizing Assistive Technology Equipment	<b>ELL</b>	Equipment Loan Library
<b>CRS</b>	Children's Rehabilitation Service	<b>ERC</b>	Equipment Restoration Center
<b>CRRP</b>	Computer Recycle and Redistribution Program	<b>ETC</b>	Equipment Technology Consortium
<b>CTALF</b>	Connecticut Tech Act Loan Fund	<b>FAAST</b>	Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology
<b>DATI</b>	Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative	<b>FY</b>	Fiscal Year
<b>DATLP</b>	Delaware Assistive Technology Loan Program	<b>FY 2005</b>	October 1, 2004, to September 30, 2005
<b>DC-ATFLP</b>	District of Columbia AT Financial Loan Program	<b>FY 2006</b>	October 1, 2005, to September 30, 2006
<b>DCCIL</b>	District of Columbia Center for Independent Living	<b>GDOL</b>	Georgia Department of Labor
<b>DHH</b>	Department of Health and Hospitals	<b>GGT</b>	Get Guam Teleworking
<b>DHS</b>	Department of Human Services	<b>GOAL-AT</b>	Guam Options for Alternative Loans-Assistive Technology
<b>DLEG</b>	Department of Labor & Economic Growth	<b>GSAT</b>	Guam System for Assistive Technology
<b>DOR</b>	Department of Rehabilitation	<b>HAT</b>	Hawaii Assistive Technology (HAT) Loan Program
<b>DORS</b>	Division of Rehabilitation Services	<b>IFSP</b>	Individualized Family Service Plan
<b>DRL</b>	Disability Resource Library	<b>IATP</b>	Idaho Assistive Technology Project
		<b>IATP</b>	Illinois Assistive Technology Program
		<b>ICAN</b>	Increasing Capabilities Access Network

<b>IDEA</b>	<i>Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004</i>	<b>NCATP</b>	North Carolina Assistive Technology Program
<b>IEP</b>	Individualized Education Program	<b>NCF</b>	National Cristina Foundation
<b>IHD</b>	Institute for Human Development	<b>NDAD</b>	North Dakota Association for the Disabled
<b>ILH</b>	Independent Living for the Handicapped	<b>NEAT</b>	New England Assistive Technology
<b>IPAT</b>	Iowa Program for Assistive Technology	<b>NIDRR</b>	National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
<b>IPAT</b>	North Dakota Interagency Program for Assistive Technology	<b>NISAT</b>	National Information System for Assistive Technology
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology	<b>NMTAP</b>	New Mexico Technology Assistance Program
<b>KATCO</b>	Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative	<b>OASIS</b>	Older Alabamians Systems of Information and Services
<b>KATLC</b>	Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation	<b>OkAT</b>	Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation
<b>KATS</b>	Kentucky Assistive Technology Service	<b>OMB</b>	Office of Management and Budget
<b>KEE</b>	Kansas Equipment Exchange	<b>ORS</b>	Office of Rehabilitation Services
<b>LATAN</b>	Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network	<b>OSERS</b>	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
<b>LGP</b>	Loan Guarantee Program	<b>PAAT</b>	Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology
<b>MassMATCH</b>	Maximizing Assistive Technology in Consumer's Hands	<b>PIAT</b>	Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology
<b>MATP</b>	Montana Assistive Technology Program	<b>PLUK</b>	Parents Let's Unite for Kids
<b>MDRC</b>	Michigan Disability Rights Coalition	<b>PRATP</b>	Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program
<b>MD TAP</b>	Maryland Technology Assistance Program	<b>PSA</b>	Public Service Announcement
<b>MoAT</b>	Missouri Assistive Technology	<b>REEP</b>	Recycled and Exchanged Equipment Partnership
<b>NATC</b>	Nevada AT Collaborative	<b>REM</b>	Refurbished Equipment Marketplace
<b>NATTAP</b>	National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership	<b>RESNA</b>	Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
<b>NAU</b>	Northern Arizona University		

<b>RSA</b>	Rehabilitation Services Administration	<b>UEM</b>	Used Equipment Marketplace
<b>SCATP</b>	South Carolina Assistive Technology Program	<b>UERS</b>	Used Equipment Referral Service
<b>SCVRD</b>	South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department	<b>UIC</b>	University of Illinois at Chicago
<b>SPD</b>	Seniors and People with Disabilities	<b>UCHSC</b>	University of Colorado Health Science Center
<b>STAR</b>	Alabama Statewide Technology Access and Response	<b>VATP</b>	Vermont Assistive Technology Program
<b>STAR</b>	Minnesota System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR) Program	<b>VATS</b>	Virginia Assistive Technology System
<b>Project START</b>	Success Through Assistive Rehabilitation Technology	<b>VITRAID</b>	Virgin Islands Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities
<b>STRAID</b>	Systems of Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities	<b>VR</b>	Vocational Rehabilitation
<b>SVRI</b>	Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute	<b>VT-OCU</b>	Vermont Opportunities Credit Union
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance	<b>WATAP</b>	Washington Assistive Technology Act Program
<b>TAP</b>	Telecommunications Access Program	<b>WATF</b>	Washington Assistive Technology Foundation
<b>TTAP</b>	Tennessee Technology Access Program	<b>WATI</b>	Wisconsin Assistive Technology Institute
<b>TTAP</b>	Texas Technology Access Program	<b>WATR</b>	Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources
<b>TDDP</b>	Telecommunications Device Distribution Program	<b>WIND</b>	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
<b>TFL</b>	Tools For Life	<b>WRP</b>	Wheelchair Recycling Program
<b>TRAID</b>	Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities	<b>WVATS</b>	West Virginia Assistive Technology System
<b>UATF</b>	Utah Assistive Technology Foundation		
<b>UATP</b>	Utah Assistive Technology Program		
<b>UCP</b>	United Cerebral Palsy		

## INTRODUCTION

The *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended by Public Law 108-364 (*AT Act of 1998*, as amended) requires that the secretary of education submit to Congress a report on the activities funded under that act. Specifically, the secretary of education is required to annually provide to Congress: 1) a compilation and summary of the information provided by the states<sup>1</sup> in annual progress reports and 2) a summary of the state applications and an analysis of the progress of the states in meeting the measurable goals established in state applications under Sec. 4(d)(3) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended.

This document satisfies this requirement for FY 2006. Following an overview of the legislation that preceded the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended and description of the amendments made by P. L. 108-364, this report is organized as follows:

- Part I Reports on the FY 2006 performance of state grants for assistive technology programs as authorized under Sec. 4 of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended.
- Part II Describes the FY 2006 performance of alternative financing programs funded under Title III of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* as in effect prior to the amendments of 2004 (*AT Act of 1998*).
- Appendix A Includes a table describing the activities conducted under the state grants for AT program during FY 2006.
- Appendix B Includes a description of the activities each state planned to carry out over the three-year period from FY 2006 through FY 2008, as of May 2007.
- Appendix C Lists the state grants for AT programs (referred to as statewide AT programs).
- Appendix D Is a listing of alternative financing programs funded under Title III of the *AT Act of 1998*.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).



# OVERVIEW OF THE *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT*

## **THE HISTORY OF THE *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT***

In 1988, Congress passed the *Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act* (P.L. 100-407) (*Tech Act*) to assist states with identifying and responding to the assistive technology (AT) needs of individuals with disabilities. Grants awarded under the *Tech Act* were used by states to create systemic change that improved the availability of assistive technology devices and services. States were provided with flexibility in the design of their programs, and this flexibility continued when the *Tech Act* was reauthorized in 1994 (P.L. 103-218).

The *Tech Act* was reauthorized again in 1998 as the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* (P.L. 105-394) (*AT Act of 1998*). The *AT Act of 1998* required states to conduct capacity-building activities that increased the availability of funding for, access to and provision of AT devices and services and allowed states to conduct other discretionary activities as well. Title III of the *AT Act of 1998* authorized the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) to help individuals with disabilities and their families fund the purchase of AT devices or services. More information about Title III of the *AT Act of 1998* is found on pages 8–10 and in Part II of this document.

The *AT Act of 1998* was amended in 2004 by P. L. 108-364 (*AT Act of 1998, as amended*). The amendments significantly change the preceding legislation. Rather than focusing the efforts of states on systems-change activities, the *AT Act of 1998, as amended*, requires states to conduct activities that assist individuals with disabilities and others to access and acquire AT. As mandated by the 2004 amendments, the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), assumed responsibility for administering programs under the act as of December 2004. Previously, the Department's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) administered the act.

## **THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998, AS AMENDED**

Sec. 4 of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, authorizes the state grants for AT program,<sup>2</sup> which is a formula grant program. Any funds appropriated above the FY 2004 level, which constitutes the base year amount, are allocated according to a formula that provides a portion of the funds equally to all states and a portion of funds based on the population of a state. With these grant funds, states develop and maintain statewide AT programs that conduct “state-level” activities and “state leadership” activities.

### **STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES**

These include:

#### **A. State financing activities, including:**

- Systems for the purchase, lease or other acquisition of or payment for AT devices and services (though states may not directly pay for AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities); or
- Alternative financing systems,<sup>3</sup> such as low-interest loan funds, interest buy-down programs, revolving loan funds, loan guarantees or insurance programs or other mechanisms for the provision of AT devices (or a state may conduct an initial one-year feasibility study for implementing an alternative financing system);

#### **B. Device reutilization programs that support the exchange, repair, recycling or other reutilization of AT devices;**

#### **C. Device loan programs that provide short-term loans of AT so that individuals can try out devices or fill a temporary need for a device; and**

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<sup>2</sup> The state grants for AT program supports state efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology (AT) to individuals with disabilities of all ages through comprehensive, statewide programs that are consumer responsive. The state grants for AT program makes AT devices and services more available and accessible to individuals with disabilities and their families. The program provides one grant to each of the states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the outlying areas.

<sup>3</sup> While they possess some similarities, “alternative financing systems” as included under state financing activities need not be the same as AFPs formerly funded under Title III of the *AT Act of 1998*, which contains many specific statutory requirements. See pages 8–10 and Part II of this document for information about Title III of the *AT Act of 1998*.

- D. Device demonstration programs in which personnel familiar with AT demonstrate a variety of AT devices and services and provide information about AT vendors, providers and repair services.

### **STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

These activities include:

- A. Training and technical assistance, which includes developing and disseminating training materials, conducting training and providing technical assistance to enhance the AT knowledge, skills and competencies of appropriate individuals;<sup>4</sup>
- B. Public awareness activities designed to provide information on the availability, benefits, appropriateness and costs of AT devices and services, including a statewide information and referral system; and
- C. Coordination and collaboration of activities among public and private entities responsible for policies, procedures or funding for the provision of AT devices and services.

Sec. 4(e)(1)(B) of the act allows states not to fund a state-level activity if that activity is supported comparably with nonfederal funds. Sec. 4(e)(6) of the act provides states with the “flexibility” to carry out only two or three of the state-level activities. States that carry out all four state-level activities may use up to 40 percent of their federal funds for state leadership activities. States that carry out two or three of the state-level activities may use up to 30 percent of their funds for state leadership activities.

State grants for AT are provided to a public “lead agency,” though the lead agency can appoint an “implementing entity” to administer the statewide AT program on its behalf. Each state must establish an advisory council to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice on the planning, implementation and evaluation of activities carried out by the statewide AT program. The council must include consumers who use AT or their families (who must constitute a majority), along with representatives of state agencies, including (at a minimum) the state

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<sup>4</sup> States are required to spend 5 percent of their state leadership funds specifically to provide training and technical assistance to assist students with disabilities who receive transition services and adults who are maintaining or transitioning to community living.

education agency, state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency, state agency for the blind (if separate from the state VR agency), a center for independent living and the state Workforce Investment Board.

The *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires that states submit an application to receive a grant. RSA required this application to be in the form of a three-year state plan for assistive technology (AT) covering the period Oct. 1, 2005, to Sept. 30, 2008. During this three-year period, the states are required to submit amendments and updates. The full requirements for state plans for AT are available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/applicant.html>, and the state plans for AT for every state are available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/performance.html>.

State plans for AT are used to:

- Determine a state's eligibility for the grant by ensuring the state is meeting the requirements of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, and the requirements of the *Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)*;
- Establish a baseline for data collection efforts and performance measurement systems;
- Provide information for an annual report to Congress;
- Establish a baseline for the monitoring system to determine a state's ongoing compliance with the requirements of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, and progress toward the state's goals; and
- Inform technical assistance efforts and guide state implementation of programs.

State plans for AT describe how each state implements a statewide AT program that is comprehensive, meaning equally available to all individuals with disabilities residing in the state, regardless of the nature of their disability, age, income level, location of residence in the state or the type of AT device or service required. Specific requirements of the state plan for AT include a description of the:

- Entities responsible for implementing the statewide AT program;
- State's advisory council;
- Activities to be conducted;

- State-level activities the state has elected not to conduct;
- Measurable goals to be achieved by the statewide AT program's activities;
- Involvement of public and private entities in the statewide AT program;
- Support for the statewide AT program provided by the state; and
- Proposed allocation and utilization of grant funds.

Sec. 5 of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, authorizes grants for Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT). PAAT grantees are separate from other grantees under the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended. Data on PAAT activities is provided in a different report to Congress.

Sec. 6 of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, authorizes "national activities" to improve the administration of the act. These activities include training and technical assistance, data collection and reporting and a national public Internet site on AT as described below:

- The National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP) supports the 56 statewide AT programs, the 57 protection and advocacy for AT programs and the 33 alternative financing programs funded under the *AT Act of 1998* and *AT Act of 1998*, as amended. The goal of this national-level program is to improve the effectiveness of the three entities as they work to get AT into the hands of individuals who need it. NATTAP also will serve other entities nationwide that are not funded under the act. NATTAP is conducted by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).
- The National Information System for Assistive Technology (NISAT) received a grant in FY 2006 to develop a Web-based data collection and reporting tool to be used by states and outlying areas to report data on their activities under both the state grants for AT program under Sec. 4 of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, and Title III of the *AT Act of 1998*. NISAT also will provide training, technical assistance and support to states to improve their data collection. NISAT data will be available to the public and will be used by RSA in future reports. NISAT is conducted by the Association of Assistive

Technology Act Programs (ATAP) in partnership with the Academy for Educational Development.

- The National Public Internet Site on Assistive Technology is intended to increase the availability of and ease of access to information about AT and disability services and resources. The site provides 24-hour access to AT information for those with Internet connectivity and a toll-free telephone number for those without it. The Web site serves all people but focuses particularly on people with disabilities, their families, service providers, educators and employers. The National Public Internet Site on Assistive Technology is hosted by the Georgia Institute of Technology.

This report contains no further information about the implementation of secs. 5 and 6 of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended. Part I provides information on the implementation of Sec. 4.

### **TITLE III OF THE *AT ACT OF 1998***

Title III of the *AT Act of 1998* authorized the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) to help individuals with disabilities and their families fund the purchase of AT devices or services. Congress first authorized grants for AFPs in 1994 under Title III of the *Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988*, as amended (P. L. No. 103-218), and continued it when that act became the *AT Act of 1998*. This grant program was eliminated when the *AT Act of 1998* was amended by P.L. 108-364 in 2004, with the exception of a special rule that allowed grants in FY 2005 only. However, Congress also appropriated funds under this special rule in FY 2006.

Title III grants paid the federal share of establishing, expanding or maintaining state-level AFPs which feature alternative financing mechanisms such as low-interest loan funds, interest rate buy-down programs, revolving loan funds, loan guarantees or other mechanisms for the purchase or lease of AT. For descriptions of each of these mechanisms and how they assist individuals with disabilities and their families to purchase AT, see table 1.

Unlike the state grants for AT program, grants were not awarded to every state under Title III. Grants were awarded through a selection process after states submitted applications containing

**TABLE 1. TYPES OF ALTERNATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES**

<b>Mechanism</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Revolving loan program</b>	With a revolving loan (often called a direct loan) program, the alternative financing program (AFP) itself lends money directly to the borrower. The AFP determines the interest it will charge on the loan. The loan payments made by loan recipients are paid back to the AFP and are then available to fund new loans for individuals with disabilities.
<b>Loan guarantee program</b>	With a loan guarantee program, the AFP does not make a loan directly to the recipient, but rather guarantees a portion of the loan made by a third-party lender, such as a conventional bank. By agreeing to cover all or part of a loan if the loan recipient should default, an AFP enables a bank to provide financing to individuals that the bank might otherwise deem too risky to receive a conventional loan.
<b>Interest rate buy-down program</b>	Through interest rate buy-down loans, an AFP uses its funds to reduce the interest rate on a lending institution's loan. For example, a loan that originally had an interest rate of 7 percent might be bought down by the AFP to 4 percent. This makes the loan more affordable because the borrower does not have to pay as much interest.
<b>Non-guaranteed low-interest loan program</b>	Some people who seek AT financing may qualify for non-guaranteed low-interest loans. For those individuals who have high enough incomes and credit scores to obtain loans directly from a conventional lender, the non-guaranteed low-interest loans may be appropriate. For the most part, the AFPs refer those individuals to their lending partners, who provide financing at a preferred or reduced rate negotiated between the bank and the AFP. The AFP does not use its funds for these loans.
<b>Principal buy-down loan program</b>	A principal buy-down loan is a partnership loan in which AFP funds are used to buy down the principal of a loan. The AFP uses funds to reduce the principal of the loan that lending institutions offer to consumers for loans to purchase AT. The AFP pays the lending institution for a portion of the principal on the loan, resulting in lower payments for the consumer over the term of the loan.
<b>Preferred interest loan program</b>	A preferred interest loan is a loan offered at an interest rate that is lower than the consumer would normally pay, but not as low as the prime rate.*
<b>Low interest loan program</b>	A low interest loan is a loan at interest rates that are at or below the prime rate.*

\* *Prime rate* is the average majority prime rate charged by banks on short-term loans to business, quoted on an investment basis. The Federal Reserve defines a bank prime loan as follows: "Rate posted by a majority of top 25 (by assets in domestic offices) insured U.S.-chartered commercial banks. Prime is one of several base rates used by banks to price short-term business loans." To determine whether a loan was made above, at or below prime rate, check the U.S. prime rate at the following Web site for the date on which the loan was closed:  
<http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/update/>.

Source: *Expanding the Reach of People with Disabilities*. March 2005. National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North American (RESNA). Last accessed Dec. 11, 2008, from <http://www.resnaprojects.org/AFTAP/loan/RESNA.html>.

assurances related to the operation of their AFPs, including assurances related to consumer choice and control. Under Title III, states must establish policies and procedures to ensure: (a) the timely processing of requests for assistance and (b) access to assistance regardless of the type of disability, income, location of residence in the state or type of AT needed by the consumer.

States that operate AFPs must enter into a contract with a community-based organization (CBO) to administer the program. This CBO must have individuals with disabilities involved in decision making at all organizational levels. In turn, the CBO must contract with a lending institution to facilitate administration of the program.

Title III also provided for a grant for technical assistance to existing and future AFPs. As with the technical assistance to the state grants for AT program, technical assistance to the AFPs to establish and maintain their loan programs was provided by RESNA from 2000 to the present.

Though the grants were for one year, states and their partners were required to use their federal and state funds in a manner that supported the permanent operation of their AFPs. Because these programs are to operate on a permanent basis, the reporting requirements also continue. Part II presents data from AFPs for FY 2006.

**PART I**

**SECTION 4 OF THE *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998*, AS AMENDED: THE STATE GRANTS FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**



## DATA COLLECTION AND LIMITATIONS

The *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, includes different data collection requirements than preceding legislation because the activities that states are required to conduct changed significantly.

Therefore, neither RSA nor states had systems in place to collect and report this data when the act passed in FY 2005.

During FY 2006, RSA worked with grantees and the public to develop a data collection instrument that states could use to meet their annual reporting obligation under Sec. 4(f) of the act. This instrument was pending approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the end of FY 2006 and became effective as of January 2007. Therefore, RSA was unable to collect data directly from grantees during FY 2006.

Independently, the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) developed a voluntary data collection system for use by its members (ATAP Voluntary Data Collection System). Because the data captured by this system was similar to the data required under Sec. 4(f) of the act, ATAP agreed to share their data with RSA to include in this report. Therefore, as noted throughout this report, data came from the ATAP Voluntary Data Collection System. This data has the following limitations:

- (1) Only 33 of 56 states and outlying areas reported data into this system. Because the system was voluntary, some states declined to participate. Many states needed to develop their data collection capacity in order to address the new requirements of the act.
- (2) While 33 programs submitted data into the system, not all of these programs provided data on all activities. Programs often did not have data to report if they were developing or in the first stage of implementing a new activity. The number of states reporting for each activity is identified in the section of this report related to that activity.
- (3) Even if a program provided data on all of its activities, it may not have data for all aspects of that activity. Most activities require the collection of several types of data or require specific data beyond counting the number of times an activity took place or the number of individuals who participated. As noted before, states were developing their data collection capacity and often were not able to provide the maximum amount of data.

The report for FY 2007 will be based on data collected from the formal RSA data collection system rather than on this voluntary data collection.

## FY 2006 FUNDING

As shown in table 2, the state grants for assistive technology (AT) program received an increase in funding of \$1,047,946 from FY 2005 to FY 2006. With a total appropriation of \$21,336,480, the average

**TABLE 2. TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE STATE GRANTS FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM: FY 2005 AND FY 2006**

FY 2005	FY 2006
\$20,288,534	\$21,336,480

grant award was \$401,506<sup>5</sup> in FY 2006. However, the majority of states (34) received awards of less than \$400,000. The highest award to a state was \$730,315, and the lowest award to a state was \$309,784.

Based on the average grant award, a state using a minimum of 60 percent of its funds for state-level activities would have spent \$240,903 on those activities, leaving \$160,602 for state leadership activities (totals have been rounded). States are required to spend 5 percent of their state leadership funds specifically to provide training and technical assistance to assist students with disabilities who receive transition services and adults who are maintaining or transitioning to community living. Of the \$160,602, 5 percent or \$8,030 would have been used for training and technical assistance related to transition.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM IN FY 2006

FY 2005 marked the first year of implementation of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended. That year was a transition from the discretionary state grants for AT program authorized under Title I of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* to the formula grant program authorized under Sec. 4 of the revised *AT Act*. For more information about implementation during FY 2005, see the *Annual*

<sup>5</sup> This average does not include American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands because doing so skews the average. That is, each of these outlying areas received a relatively small amount, just over \$114,000.

*Report to Congress on the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005* at <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/rsa/atsg/2004/at-act-report-04-05.pdf>.

The activities conducted during FY 2005 primarily involved assisting states to create their state plans for AT to guide implementation of the four state-level and three state leadership activities beginning in FY 2006. RSA developed specifications for state plans for AT and provided training related to the plans; states completed and submitted their plans; and RSA reviewed and approved the plans. States prepared and submitted their plans between July 18, 2005, and Aug. 26, 2005, and RSA completed its review of the plans by Sept. 29, 2005. States began implementing their state-level and state leadership activities when the plans became effective on Oct. 1, 2005, the first day of FY 2006. What follows describes the implementation of these activities during FY 2006.

## **STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES**

### **OVERVIEW**

The majority of states and outlying areas (42) conducted or planned to conduct all four state-level activities during FY 2006. States are not required to fund a state-level activity if that activity is supported comparably with nonfederal funds, or states have the flexibility to conduct only two or three of the four state-level activities. The state-level activity for which states most frequently claimed comparability or flexibility was state financing. Thirteen states and outlying areas did not use funds to support state financing activities. For more information about state financing, see the section on state financing, pages 18–23.

Table 3 shows the state-level activities conducted or planned by each state or outlying area in FY 2006. A more comprehensive and detailed version of table 3 is included as Appendix A.

**TABLE 3. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OR PLANNED USING STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS: FY 2006**

<b>State</b>	<b>State Financing Activities</b>	<b>Device Reutilization Activities</b>	<b>Device Loan Activities</b>	<b>Device Demonstration Activities</b>
Alabama	x	x	x	x
Alaska	x	x	x	x
Arizona	x	x	x	x
Arkansas	c	x	x	x
California	c	x	p	f
Colorado	x	x	x	x
Connecticut	x	x	x	x
Delaware	x	x	x	x
Florida	x	x	p	x
Georgia	x	x	x	x
Hawaii	x	x	x	x
Idaho	x	x	x	x
Illinois	x	x	x	x
Indiana	x	x	x	x
Iowa	x	x	x	x
Kansas	x	x	x	x
Kentucky	x	x	x	x
Louisiana	x	x	p	p
Maine	x	x	x	x
Maryland	x	x	x	x
Massachusetts	x	x	x	x
Michigan	c	x	f	x
Minnesota	c	x	x	x
Mississippi	f	x	x	x
Missouri	x	x	x	x
Montana	x	x	x	x
Nebraska	x	x	x	x
Nevada	x	x	x	x
New Hampshire	c	x	x	x
New Jersey	c	x	x	p
New Mexico	x	x	x	x
New York	x	x	x	x
North Carolina	f	x	x	x

**TABLE 3. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OR PLANNED USING STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

State	State Financing Activities	Device Reutilization Activities	Device Loan Activities	Device Demonstration Activities
North Dakota	x	x	x	x
Ohio	x	x	x	x
Oklahoma	x	x	x	x
Oregon	x	x	x	x
Pennsylvania	x	x	x	x
Rhode Island	s	x	x	x
South Carolina	c	x	x	x
South Dakota	s	x	x	x
Tennessee	f	x	x	x
Texas	s	x	x	x
Utah	x	x	x	x
Vermont	x	x	x	x
Virginia	f	x	x	x
Washington	x	x	x	x
West Virginia	x	x	x	x
Wisconsin	c	x	x	x
Wyoming	c	x	x	x
District of Columbia	x	x	x	x
Puerto Rico	s	x	x	x
American Samoa	x	x	x	x
Guam	x	x	x	x
Northern Mariana Islands	x	x	x	x
U.S. Virgin Islands	x	x	x	x

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

See pages 4–5 for descriptions of the state-level activities.

x = activity being conducted during FY 2006

p = activity being planned during FY 2006 for implementation in FY 2007

c = claiming comparability. Sec. 4(e)(1)(B) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, allows states not to fund a state-level activity if that activity is supported comparably with nonfederal funds.

f = claiming flexibility. Sec. 4(e)(6) of the *AT Act of 1998*, provides states with the “flexibility” to carry out only two or three of the state-level activities.

s = conducting feasibility study on potential resources and partners to implement an alternative financing program.

Source: State plans for assistive technology, submitted to RSA in August 2005. Last accessed Dec. 11, 2008, from <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/state-plans/2006>.

## STATE FINANCING

State financing activities assist individuals with disabilities to attain funding for AT devices and services. Statewide AT programs have taken many approaches to state financing, including:

- Financial loan programs—A financial loan program may make loans directly (revolving loans) or may make loans using dollars from another source, usually a financial institution, so that individuals with disabilities and their families can purchase AT. States also have the option of conducting an initial one-year study of improving, administering, operating, providing capital for or collaborating with another entity to develop alternative financing.
- Cooperative buying programs—Through cooperative buying programs, states can purchase AT in bulk at a discount from AT suppliers and then pass the savings on to consumers.
- Financing for home modifications programs—States use grant funds to administer a program that provides home modifications, including the addition of wheelchair ramps. Funds authorized under the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, cannot be used to pay for the modifications directly.
- Individual development account programs—These are dedicated matched-savings accounts that provide incentives for low-income individuals to build investment assets.
- Last resort fund programs—States use grant funds to administer programs that provide AT or funds to purchase AT for consumers when all other options have been exhausted. The money for the last resort fund itself comes from sources other than the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended.
- Telecommunications distribution programs—Many states have programs in place to provide telecommunications equipment to individuals with disabilities. States purchase the equipment with non-*AT Act* funds, but the program is administered by the statewide AT program.
- Telework fund programs—Like alternative financing, telework funds provide loans that allow individuals with disabilities to purchase computers or other equipment (including

adaptive equipment) to use for teleworking. Only telework loans provided for the purchase of AT are counted as state financing.

In FY 2006, the predominant state financing activity available to consumers was a financial loan program. Thirty-three of the 56 state and outlying areas used grant funds to support a financial loan program. Ten states did not use funds to support financial loan programs because a comparable loan program already existed, while an additional state exercised flexibility under Sec. 4(e)(6) due to an existing loan program. Therefore, 44 states or outlying areas had some form of financial loans available for the purchase of AT, while an additional five states used funds to continue feasibility studies of financial loan programs. In some cases, these feasibility studies were in addition to other state financing activities. Table 4 summarizes the state financing activities conducted in FY 2006.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires states to report to RSA the following information about their state financing activities:

- A. The type of state financing activity used by the state (see pages 18–19);
- B. The amount and type of assistance given to consumers of the state financing activities (who shall be classified by type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service financed through the state financing activities, and geographic distribution within the state), including:
  - The number of applications for assistance received;
  - The number of applications approved and rejected;
  - The default rate for the financing activities;
  - The range and average interest rate for the financing activities;
  - The range and average income of approved applicants for the financing activities; and
  - The types and dollar amounts of assistive technology financed.

**TABLE 4. FINANCING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OR PLANNED BY STATES USING STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS: FY 2006**

<b>States Using Grant Funds to Support Financial Loan Programs for the Purchase or Lease of AT</b>		<b>States Using Grant Funds to Support Telework Programs for the Purchase or Lease of Equipment to Telework</b>
Alabama	Missouri	Arizona
Arizona	Montana	Delaware
Connecticut	Nevada	Florida
Delaware	New Mexico	Illinois
Florida	New York	Iowa
Georgia	North Dakota	Kansas
Hawaii	Ohio	Maryland
Idaho	Oklahoma	Missouri
Illinois	Utah	New Mexico
Indiana	Vermont	Oklahoma
Iowa	Washington	Utah
Kansas	District of Columbia	Washington
Kentucky	American Samoa	Guam
Louisiana	Guam	
Maine	Northern Marianas	
Maryland	Virgin Islands	
Massachusetts		
<b>States Not Using Grant Funds Because Comparable State Financing Exists</b>		<b>States Exercising Flexibility to Not Use Grant Funds for State Financing</b>
Alaska	New Hampshire	Mississippi
Arkansas	New Jersey	North Carolina
California	South Carolina	Tennessee
Michigan	Wisconsin	Virginia <sup>b</sup>
Minnesota	Wyoming	

**TABLE 4. FINANCING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OR PLANNED BY STATES USING STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

Other Activities Funded by States	
Colorado:	Online financing resource
Delaware:	Borrow-to-Own Low-vision Devices program
Georgia:	Cooperative buying
Illinois:	Last Resort Fund
Kansas:	Telecommunications distribution; Case management system
Maryland:	Cooperative buying; Devices for nursing home residents; Wheelchair ramp construction; Emergency notification systems
Massachusetts:	Home modification loan program; Mini-loan program
Missouri:	Last resort funding; School reimbursement program
Nebraska:	One-stop for financing
Nevada:	Telecommunications distribution program
New Mexico:	Leveraged funding program
Oklahoma:	Fire safety equipment program
Oregon:	Cooperative buying program
Pennsylvania:	Telecommunications distribution; Individual funding consultation
Rhode Island:	Feasibility study
South Dakota:	Feasibility study
Texas:	Feasibility study
Vermont:	Funding for children with autism
Washington:	Individual funding consultation
West Virginia:	Feasibility study
Puerto Rico:	Feasibility study; Low-cost device design and development

<sup>b</sup> Virginia has an existing financial loan program not supported by the state AT program.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

See pages 18–19 for detailed descriptions of other activities funded by states.

Source: State plans for assistive technology, submitted to RSA in August 2005. Last accessed Dec. 11, 2008, from <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atgs/state-plans/2006>.

Due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006. However, RSA obtained data from ATAP's voluntary data collection system as described on page 13. According to these data:

- A. Some 651 financial loans for the purchase of AT were provided by 14 states and outlying areas reporting data.
  - Of these loans, 510 were direct loans provided by states and outlying areas from revolving loan funds. These direct loans provided \$5,465,661 to consumers.
  - The remaining 141 of these loans were provided by a lender in partnership with the state or outlying area. These partnership loans provided \$985,784 to consumers.
- B. The majority of financial loans were used to pay for vehicles or access to vehicles, hearing equipment or access to housing.
- C. Some 344 loans were made to consumers who lived in nonrural areas, while 307 loans were provided to those living in rural areas.
- D. Loans were provided to consumers with a wide range of incomes:
  - 134 loans were provided to those earning less than \$15,000 per year.
  - 243 loans were provided to those earning between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year.
  - 280 loans were provided to those earning more than \$30,000 per year.
- E. Some 316 consumers were served by nonfinancial loan state financing activities. Of these, 131 consumers lived in nonrural areas, while 185 lived in rural areas. The most common types of AT provided by these non-loan activities were:
  - \$156,686 for home or building access;
  - \$145,516 in vision equipment; and
  - \$85,466 in augmentative communication devices.

The assistance provided by state financing activities made a difference in the lives of consumers. For example:

In Louisiana, a paraplegic man was able to accept a \$55,000 per year job because of a loan from the Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN). When offered the job, he did not have accessible transportation and was denied loans by both auto dealerships and his personal bank. He had poor credit because of the medical bills resulting from the accident that caused his paraplegia. LATAN offered him a financial loan, however, enabling him to purchase a modified vehicle and become employed.

North Dakota's AFP at the North Dakota Association for the Disabled (NDAD) assisted a family with a loan for home modifications. Their 16-year-old son with a disability needed an accessible bathroom and bedroom in order to care for himself independently. His mother could not lift her son anymore, and his wheelchair did not fit in their existing bathroom. Because of the home modifications provided by the AFP loan, he now can take care of his own bathroom needs and can reach his own clothing.

## **DEVICE REUTILIZATION**

AT reutilization involves transferring a used device from someone who no longer needs it to someone who does. There are two general categories of device reutilization: device exchange and device reassignment (which sometimes includes refurbishment and repair).

For device exchange, devices are listed in a "want ad"-type posting either on the Internet or in print and consumers can contact and arrange to obtain the device (either by purchasing it or obtaining it for free) from the current owner. Exchange programs do not involve warehousing inventory and do not include repair, sanitization or refurbishment of used devices. In some cases the statewide AT program acts as an intermediary during the exchange, in other cases the statewide AT program is not involved in the transaction.

For device reassignment, devices are accepted (usually by donation) into an inventory, are repaired, sanitized and refurbished as needed, and then offered for sale, loan, rental or giveaway to consumers as recycled products. Some states reassign only computers rather than all types of

AT. Open-ended device loans, in which the device borrower can keep the device for as long as it is needed rather than for a specified period of time, also are a form of device reassignment.

Using state grants for AT funds, many states supported more than one device reutilization program, resulting in 95 device reutilization programs being available or planned in FY 2006. Thirty-four states and outlying areas supported device reassignment of general AT devices, while another 14 computer reassignment programs were offered. Forty-seven states and outlying areas supported device exchange programs connecting owners who no longer need AT devices with individuals seeking used devices. Table 5 summarizes the reutilization activities conducted in the states and outlying areas.

**TABLE 5. DEVICE REUTILIZATION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OR PLANNED BY STATES USING STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS: FY 2006**

<b>States Using State Grants For AT Program Funds to Support AT Reassignment</b>		<b>States Using State Grants For AT Program Funds to Support Computer Reassignment</b>
Alabama	Nevada	California
Arkansas	New Hampshire	Florida
California	New Mexico	Georgia
Connecticut	New York	Hawaii
Florida	Oregon	Indiana
Georgia	Pennsylvania	Kentucky
Hawaii	Rhode Island	Louisiana
Idaho	South Carolina	Mississippi
Iowa	South Dakota	Missouri
Kansas	Tennessee	Ohio
Kentucky	Texas	Oklahoma
Louisiana	Utah	Utah
Maryland	Virginia	Washington
Massachusetts	West Virginia	District of Columbia
Mississippi	Wisconsin	
Missouri	District of Columbia	
Montana	Guam	
<b>States Using State Grants for AT Program Funds to Support AT Exchange</b>		
Alaska	Kentucky	North Carolina
American Samoa	Louisiana	North Dakota
Arizona	Maine	Northern Marianas
Arkansas	Maryland	Ohio
California	Massachusetts	Oklahoma
Colorado	Michigan	Oregon
Connecticut	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Delaware	Mississippi	Puerto Rico
Florida	Missouri	South Carolina
Georgia	Montana	South Dakota
Idaho	Nebraska	Texas
Illinois	Nevada	Vermont
Indiana	New Hampshire	Virgin Islands
Iowa	New Jersey	Washington
Kansas	New Mexico	West Virginia
	New York	Wyoming

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

Source: State plans for assistive technology, submitted to RSA in August 2005. Last accessed Dec. 11, 2008, from <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/state-plans/2006>.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires states to report to RSA the following information about their device reutilization activities:

- A. The number, type, estimated value and scope of assistive technology devices exchanged, repaired, recycled or reutilized; and
- B. An analysis of the individuals with disabilities that benefited from the device reutilization program.

Due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006. However, RSA obtained data from ATAP's voluntary data collection system as described on page 13. According to these data, in FY 2006:

- A. 4,765 people received reutilized devices in 24 states reporting data. 2,346 lived in rural areas and 2,419 lived in non-rural areas.
- B. 5,602 devices were reutilized, indicating that many people received more than one device.
  - 678 devices were exchanged by 20 states reporting data. The majority of exchanges were made for daily living equipment, seating, positioning and wheeled mobility equipment and vehicles or vehicle access.
  - 4,482 devices were reassigned by 14 states reporting data. The majority of devices reassigned were computer and related computer access equipment, seating, positioning and wheeled mobility equipment and daily living equipment.
  - 442 devices were loaned on a long-term basis by eight states reporting data. The majority of devices on long-term loan were computer and related computer-access equipment, seating, positioning and wheeled mobility equipment and recreation and leisure equipment.
- C. Reutilization saved consumers \$5,014,921.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Cost savings is estimated by subtracting how much the reutilized device cost the consumer from the cost of the device if it was purchased new.

The assistance provided by device reutilization activities made a difference in the lives of consumers. For example:

A nursing home resident in Pennsylvania was scheduled to leave the nursing home and move into his own apartment until his power wheelchair broke. He could not leave the nursing home until he had a chair, and he had to pay for the repairs out-of-pocket because of an insurance billing problem. Because he could not afford the repairs, he turned to Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT). Through its reutilization program, PIAT was able to provide a power wheelchair and the man was discharged and moved into an apartment a few days later.

After Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, the Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network's (LATAN) massive reuse effort brought in used equipment from around the country to help hundreds of Gulf Coast residents. One woman who evacuated her home before the storm lost a walker, wheelchair and other equipment she needed to live independently. Without AT, she was unable to bathe without assistance, nor was she able to go out because she could not get in and out of her husband's truck. LATAN sent a therapist to assess her, and two days later she received a used cane, wheelchair, walker, bathtub-transfer bench and adapted toilet.

## **DEVICE LOANS**

A device loan program allows consumers and professionals to borrow AT devices for use at home, school, work and in the community. Loans are short-term, though the length varies by individual program policy. The purpose of a device loan may be to assist in decision-making; to fill a gap while the consumer is waiting for device repair or funding; to provide an accommodation on a short-term basis; to provide self-education by a consumer or professional; and to provide training.

As shown in table 6 on the next page, 55 of 56 grantees provided or planned device loan programs in FY 2006; the remaining grantee, Michigan, exercised flexibility under Sec. 4(e)(6). States varied in how they implemented device loan programs, but the majority either operated a loan program from one location in the state or from multiple locations throughout the state. Twenty-one grantees provided device loans from a single location. Usually, they have one inventory of devices available for loan and ship those devices to consumers. Thirty grantees provided device loans from multiple

**TABLE 6. DEVICE LOAN ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OR PLANNED BY STATES USING STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS: FY 2006**

<b>States Using State Grants For AT Program Funds to Support Device Loans From a Central Location</b>		<b>States Using State Grants For AT Program Funds to Support Device Loans From Multiple Sites</b>	
Arkansas	Vermont	Alabama	New Hampshire
Colorado	Washington	Alaska	New Jersey
Connecticut	Wyoming	Arizona	New York
Illinois	District of Columbia	California	North Carolina
Indiana	American Samoa	Delaware	Oklahoma
Iowa	Guam	Florida	Pennsylvania
Kansas		Georgia	Rhode Island
Missouri		Hawaii	South Dakota
Montana		Idaho	Tennessee
Nebraska		Kentucky	Virginia
New Mexico		Maine	West Virginia
North Dakota		Maryland	Wisconsin
Oregon		Massachusetts	Puerto Rico
South Carolina		Minnesota	Northern Mariana Is.
Texas		Mississippi	U.S. Virgin Islands
<b>States Using State Grants For AT Program Funds To Support Device Loans Through Other Means</b>			
Nevada:	facilitate loans between consumers and AT vendors		
Ohio:	partnerships with public libraries		
Utah:	virtual network of organizations		

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

Source: State plans for assistive technology, submitted to RSA in August 2005. Last accessed Dec. 11, 2008, from <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/state-plans/2006>.

locations. Rather than having a centralized inventory, these programs usually have smaller inventories at numerous sites and coordinate the shipment or pickup and drop-off of devices among these sites.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires states to report to RSA the following information about their device loans:

- A. Number, type and length of time of loans of assistive technology devices provided; and
- B. An analysis of the individuals with disabilities who benefited from the device loan program.

Due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006. However, RSA obtained data from ATAP's voluntary data collection system as described on page 13. According to these data:

- A. 23,301 device loans were provided by 26 states reporting data.
- B. The majority of devices loaned were learning and developmental devices, augmentative communication devices and recreation and leisure devices.
- C. The majority of loans were provided to individuals with disabilities and their families.

The assistance provided by device loan activities made a difference in the lives of consumers. For example:

A Kentucky high school student with muscular dystrophy was looking for AT to help access his computer at home. The student participated in a device demonstration through Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) during which he tried a number of computer input devices and found a specialized joystick that worked. He then borrowed the device from the KATS lending library until the device could be purchased. This student now works independently at home.

While many people need device loans in order to decide which AT will work best for them, others choose loans because they need AT only for a limited time.

One family in Arkansas chose a device loan rather than purchasing AT for a woman who was dying of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. The communication device they borrowed allowed the family to communicate during the last months of her life.

## **DEVICE DEMONSTRATION**

The purpose of a device demonstration is to enable an individual to make an informed choice about an AT device. Device demonstrations compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices for an individual or small group of individuals. Whenever possible, the participant should be shown a variety of devices. Guided experience with the devices is provided to the participants with the assistance of someone who has technical expertise related to the devices. This expert may be in the same location as the participant or may assist the

participant through an Internet or distance-learning mechanism that provides real-time, effective communication to deliver the necessary device exploration. Along with providing demonstrations, grantees are required to provide to individuals comprehensive information about state and local assistive technology vendors, providers and repair services.

Device demonstrations should not be confused with training activities at which devices are demonstrated. Training activities are instructional events designed to increase knowledge, skills and competencies, generally for larger audiences. They also should not be confused with public awareness activities at which devices are demonstrated. The key difference is that device demonstrations are intended to enable an individual to make an informed choice rather than merely making him or her aware of a variety of AT.

As shown in table 7, 55 of 56 grantees provided or planned device demonstration programs in FY 2006; the remaining grantee California did not provide demonstrations because it claimed flexibility under Sec. 4(e)(6). Device demonstrations can be provided in many ways, and some states and outlying areas provided demonstrations via more than one method. The majority of states and outlying areas (41) made or planned to make device demonstrations available through multiple sites. Twelve states made or planned to make demonstrations available from a single location, while others had both demonstration sites and provided mobile demonstrations or demonstrations via videoconference. The latter two types of demonstrations are especially important in large states that are sparsely populated.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires states to report to RSA the following information about their device demonstrations:

- A. Number and type of device demonstrations and referrals provided; and
- B. Analysis of individuals with disabilities who benefited from the demonstrations and referrals.

**TABLE 7. DEVICE DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OR PLANNED BY STATES USING STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS: FY 2006**

<b>States Supporting Demonstrations at Multiple Locations</b>			
Alabama	Kentucky	New York	Utah
Alaska	Maryland	North Carolina	Vermont
Arizona	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Virginia
Colorado	Michigan	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Delaware	Minnesota	Oregon	Wisconsin
Florida	Mississippi	Pennsylvania	American Samoa
Georgia	Missouri	Rhode Island	Puerto Rico
Hawaii	Nebraska	South Dakota	Northern Mariana Is.
Idaho	New Hampshire	Tennessee	U.S. Virgin Islands
Indiana	New Jersey	Texas	
Kansas	New Mexico		
<b>States Supporting Demonstrations at a Single Location</b>		<b>States Supporting Mobile Demonstrations or Demonstrations Through Videoconferencing</b>	
Arkansas	Nevada	Alaska	South Carolina
Connecticut	South Carolina	Colorado	Vermont
Illinois	Washington	Maine	Washington
Iowa	Wyoming	Nebraska	Wyoming
Maine	District of Columbia	New Mexico	Puerto Rico
Montana	Guam	Ohio	Guam
		Oregon	

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

Source: State plans for assistive technology, submitted to RSA in August 2005. Last accessed Dec. 11, 2008, from <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/state-plans/2006>.

Due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006. However, RSA obtained data from ATAP’s voluntary data collection system as described on page 13. According to these data:

- A. 21,095 demonstrations were provided by 28 states reporting data resulting in 7,319 referrals.
- B. The majority of devices demonstrated were devices for hearing, vision and communication.
- C. The majority of individuals participating in demonstrations were individuals with disabilities, their family members and representatives from the field of education.

The assistance provided by device demonstration activities made a difference in the lives of consumers. For example:

A farmer in Kansas was having difficulty using his computer and contacted the Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) program. After demonstrating three different programs, an ATK specialist helped the farmer select a basic screen enlargement program to allow him to access his computer. The software was funded through Kansas' vocational rehabilitation agency. The farmer was able to manage the books for his grain-livestock operation and to create a Web-based accessible hunting business.

A Vermont high school senior with short-term memory loss resulting from traumatic brain injury needed help transitioning to college. One of the Vermont Assistive Technology Program's "Try-out Centers" demonstrated memory aides, such as a wristwatch that can be programmed with alerts and a hand-held digital recorder for remembering tasks and other daily needs, for this student and a therapist. Vermont's vocational rehabilitation agency purchased the devices in time for the student to begin summer courses at the University of Vermont.

#### **STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND MEASURABLE GOALS**

The *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires that states set measurable goals for addressing the AT needs of individuals with disabilities in the state within the domains of education, employment, telecommunications and information technology and community living. In order to receive a grant, states must describe their goals, provide a timeline for meeting the goals and indicate how the state will quantifiably measure the goals to determine whether they have been achieved.

Working with stakeholders, including representatives of statewide AT programs, AFPs, vocational rehabilitation, education, community living and information technology, RSA decided that the measurable goals established for the program should focus on access to and acquisition of AT, which is consistent with the findings and purposes of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended. It also is consistent with the four state-level activities (state financing, device reutilization, device demonstration and device loan) that improve access and acquisition to AT. Specifically, device demonstration programs and device loan programs improve access to AT, while state financing and device reutilization improve acquisition of AT.

RSA determined that all states need to use, at a minimum, a set of the same measurable goals in order to provide a meaningful picture of the program’s success in meeting the AT needs of individuals with disabilities.<sup>7</sup> Use of common goals provides RSA with a national picture of program performance and permits comparisons of performance among states. Therefore, all states are required to set one goal for improving access to AT; one goal for improving acquisition of AT for individuals with disabilities for use in the domains of education, employment and community living;<sup>8</sup> and one goal to improve access to AT in the domain of information technology and telecommunications. The result is seven measurable goals—four “access goals” and three “acquisition goals”—as described below. All states were required to include these seven measures in their state plans.

#### A. Goals for Improving Access to AT

Device demonstrations and device loans improve access to AT because they provide individuals with information and experiences that enable them to make informed decisions about AT. Therefore, an appropriate goal is that targeted individuals and entities make a decision about an AT device or service based on the information they receive from a device demonstration or device loan program. A way to measure improvement in access to AT, then, is through an increase in the percentage of appropriate individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service as a result of the assistance they received. The access goals are as follows:

1. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for educational purposes* as a result of the assistance they received.
2. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for employment purposes* as a result of the assistance they received.

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<sup>7</sup> States may adopt additional goals if they so desire.

<sup>8</sup> A state must set a goal in each of the domains of education, employment and community living.

3. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for community living* as a result of the assistance they received.
4. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *that meets an information technology and telecommunications need* as a result of the assistance they received.

B. Goals for Improving Acquisition of AT<sup>9</sup>

State financing systems and device reutilization programs are most likely to improve acquisition because they reduce cost barriers that prevent individuals from obtaining AT. As a result, individuals and entities obtain AT devices or services from state financing systems or device reutilization programs despite the otherwise prohibitive cost of such devices or services. A way to measure improvement in acquisition of AT, then, is through an increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained the AT. The acquisition goals are as follows:

1. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for educational purposes* who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
2. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for employment purposes* who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

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<sup>9</sup> States are not required to set goals related to acquiring AT that meets an information technology or telecommunications need, which are required for improving access to AT. This is because once an individual acquires AT that improves access to information technology or telecommunications, the AT is actually used for employment, education or community living purposes. Thus, unlike the prior section for improving access to AT, which has four categories of goals, this section only has three.

3. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for community living purposes* who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

RSA had intended for states to establish baselines for these measures during FY 2006. However, given the data collection limitations described on page 13, RSA was unable to collect these data from states. Therefore, states will establish baselines during FY 2007. Once a baseline has been established, states will identify long-term goals and annual goals that show progress toward the long-term goal.

## **STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

### **OVERVIEW**

Unlike state-level activities, the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires all grantees to conduct all of the state leadership activities. During FY 2006, all grantees engaged in training and technical assistance, public awareness (including information and referral) and coordination and collaboration.

### **TRAINING**

Training activities are instructional events, usually planned in advance for a specific purpose or audience, that are designed to increase participants' knowledge, skills and competencies regarding AT. Such events can be delivered to large or small groups, in-person or via telecommunications or other distance education mechanisms. Examples of training include classes, workshops and presentations that have a goal of increasing skills, knowledge and competency, as opposed to training intended only to increase general awareness of AT. Training activities have more depth and breadth than public awareness activities and are focused on skill building and competency development. In some cases, training may be a component of technical assistance but is not considered technical assistance as a stand-alone activity.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires states to report to RSA the following information about their training activities:

- A. Number and general characteristics of individuals who participated in training;

- B. Topics of training; and
- C. To the extent practicable, the geographic distribution of individuals who participated in the training.

Due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006. However, RSA obtained data from ATAP's voluntary data collection system as described on page 13. According to these data:

- A. 52,178 individuals received training provided by 33 states reporting data.
  - 18,847 of these individuals came from nonrural areas.
  - 7,260 of these individuals came from rural areas.
  - 26,071 individuals did not classify themselves as either rural or nonrural.
- B. The majority of trainings increased knowledge and skills related to specific AT devices and services, general awareness of AT products and services and funding sources for AT devices and services.
- C. The majority of people trained were individuals with disabilities and their families and representatives of the education field.

Examples of training provided in FY 2006 include:

In Arizona, the Arizona Technology Access Program provided six trainings to election workers on the requirements of the *Help America Vote Act of 2002*. As a result, approximately 252 election workers were trained on use of accessible voting machines.

Both West Virginia and the Virgin Islands sponsored conferences focused on the role of AT in making a seamless transition from high school to adult life. Conference participants learned about the role of AT in transition planning, how to assist students with transition, how to set transition-related goals and how to make career choices.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

While training is designed to impart knowledge, skills and competencies, technical assistance (TA) involves extensive consultation with state or local agencies or other entities (rather than individuals)

and generally involves problem solving to achieve a mutually agreed upon goal. Technical assistance may involve multiple contacts and interactions over an extended period of time. TA may be provided in person, by electronic media, such as telephone, video or e-mail, or by other means. The following are areas in which technical assistance may be provided: needs assessment; program planning or development; curriculum or materials development; administrative or management consultation; program evaluation and site reviews of external organizations; and policy development.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires states to include in reports to RSA the frequency and nature of technical assistance provided.

Due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006. However, RSA obtained data from ATAP's voluntary data collection system as described on page 13. According to these data:

- A. 29 states reported providing technical assistance.
- B. The agencies or entities that received the most technical assistance were: education agencies, employment agencies and other agencies, including state and government, such as election boards, county clerks and those in the area of emergency preparedness.
- C. Technical assistance was most frequently provided on the elements of the *Help America Vote Act of 2002*; Sec. 508 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended; Sec. 255 of the *Telecommunications Act of 1996*; and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, as reauthorized in 2004.

Examples of technical assistance provided in FY 2006 include:

The Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) provided extensive technical assistance to the Delaware Department of Education on the infusion of universal design for learning principles and practices into education statewide, particularly with math, literacy and science. DATI worked with individuals representing all dimensions of the curriculum at the state level to ensure that they understood how to recognize curricular barriers and resolve them.

The Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia examined 15 voting stations and provided TA to the board of elections on the accessibility of and barriers to voting for individuals with disabilities.

Both Arizona and Louisiana provided TA to state agencies involved in emergency preparedness to ensure that AT and individuals with disabilities are included in disaster planning.

States are required to provide training and technical assistance specifically related to transition. The *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended, does not require reporting of data related to these activities, and no data were available in FY 2006. Despite the lack of a requirement to provide this data, RSA anticipates having data available on these activities in the report to Congress for FY 2007.

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Public awareness activities are designed to reach large numbers of people, including activities such as public service announcements; radio talk shows and news reports; newspaper stories and columns; newsletters; brochures; and public forums. Actual numbers of information recipients are often difficult to know for certain. The *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended, includes information and referral activities under public awareness. Information and referral activities are those in which the grantee responds to requests for information or puts individuals in contact with other agencies, organizations or companies that either can provide them with needed information on or intensive assistance with AT products, devices, services, funding sources or other related disability topics. This information may be provided in person, over the telephone, via e-mail or by other means.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, requires states to report to RSA the following information about their technical assistance activities: the number of individuals assisted through public awareness activities and the statewide information and referral system.

Due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006. However, RSA obtained data from ATAP's voluntary data collection system as described on page 13. According to these data:

- A. 183,175 individuals received assistance from information and referral activities provided by 27 states reporting data.

- B. The majority of those receiving assistance were individuals with disabilities and their family members. These individuals received assistance regarding AT products and services as well as policy and funding issues.

Because interaction with consumers during information and referral and public awareness activities is generally short, it is difficult to provide specific examples of these activities.

#### **COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION**

Grantees also coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures or funding for the provision of AT devices and services to improve access to AT for individuals with disabilities of all ages in the state. There is no data collection and reporting requirement related to these activities. Instead, Sec. 4(f) requires states to report the outcomes of any improvement initiatives, including a description of any written policies, practices and procedures that the state has developed and implemented regarding access to, provision of and funding for AT devices and services.

Generally, the outcomes described in the preceding bullet are produced as a result of either coordination and collaboration or technical assistance. It is difficult to report on such outcomes quantitatively, and due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006. However, RSA obtained data from ATAP's voluntary data collection system as described on page 13. According to these data, some examples of coordination and collaboration in FY 2006 include:

- A. The Missouri Assistive Technology Council collaborated with the state education agency to develop a plan for implementing the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard in Missouri.
- B. The Oklahoma statewide AT program collaborated with a workgroup on early intervention to create an effective system for assessing or providing AT to children under *IDEA*, Part C, where no such capacity existed. This system will include: professional development opportunities on AT devices and services; a procurement process for the purchase of AT; an assessment process for the determination of appropriate AT; quality indicators; and hiring requirements for therapeutic professionals. Additionally, the program provided kits of low-tech AT for

26 regional offices for providers to take into the home to demonstrate and assess a child's AT needs as part of developing an Individualized Family Service Plan.<sup>10</sup>

### **ADDITIONAL DATA**

In addition to the data provided above, Sec. 4(f) requires states to report on leveraged funding or other contributed resources from and with public and private entities to carry out the grant and the level of customer satisfaction with the services provided. Due to the data limitations described on page 13, states did not provide data to RSA for FY 2006 on their leveraged funding, contributed resources or customer satisfaction. RSA anticipates having data available on these activities in the report to Congress for FY 2007.

### **CONCLUSION**

Because the changes in the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, were significant, states and outlying areas were in various stages of planning and implementing their state plans for AT during FY 2006. The majority of states conducted most of the state-level and state leadership activities on at least a limited basis. RSA expects to have more robust data about their activities during FY 2007 when programs were fully in place.

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<sup>10</sup> An *Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)* is a written plan for providing early intervention services to a child eligible under Part C of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* and the child's family.

**PART II**

**TITLE III OF THE**

***ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998:***

**ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS (AFPS)**

## DATA COLLECTION AND LIMITATIONS

Title III of the *AT Act of 1998* (as opposed to the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended) requires the secretary of education to report to Congress on the progress of the AFP. The legislative reporting requirements of Title III are shown in table 8 below.

<b>TABLE 8. TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS</b>
Number of grant applications received and approved, and the amount of each grant awarded.
Ratio of funds provided by each state for the Alternative Financing Program of the state to funds provided by the federal government for the program.
Type of alternative financing mechanisms used by each state and the community-based organization with which each state entered into a contract under the program.
Amount of assistance given to consumers through the program (who shall be classified by age, type of disability, type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service financed through the program, geographic distribution within the state, gender and whether the consumers are part of an underrepresented population or rural population).

Source: Title III of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*.

In FY 2006, AFPs collected and reported data about the loans they provided directly or supported through lending institutions. Two types of data were reported by AFPs:

- A. The first type is *program data* that provide summary information about state programs, including program partners, program features and the performance of the loans that they supported or provided.
- B. The second type of data is *individual applicant data*, which are data on individuals seeking loans to purchase AT. (A random identification code is generated for each applicant's data to protect the individual's privacy.) These data include:
  - Data collected during initial surveys of applicants for loans, including applicant demographics and assistive technology request information; and
  - Data collected from follow-up surveys with applicants, including outcomes.

Program data are submitted annually by all grantees to the National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP), which is operated by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). Individual applicant data are submitted to a Web-based reporting system operated and maintained through the

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Department of Occupational Therapy under a subcontract with RESNA.

Tables for this report were created using the Web-based outcomes reporting system at UIC and the annual program data survey. Sources for the data are noted on each data table.

The FY 2006 data are complete because at the time of publication states had full information from their lenders concerning their outstanding loans, defaults and net losses. However, some data are missing from individual applicant records. Applicants always have the right to refuse to answer survey questions and some programs do not ask all questions because of their particular structure and application process.

Additionally, variations in the processes used across the states for collecting information affect the reliability of the data. These variations are a function of program structure, human resources availability and relationships with banks or other financial institutions. Some states collect data at the time of application while others collect it later and, therefore, may be more subject to recall bias.

## **FUNDING**

Total federal funding of the AFP from FY 2000 to FY 2006 was \$59.8 million. Funding provided by nonfederal match (states provide the nonfederal share of the cost of the AFP in cash, from state, local or private sources) during the same period totaled \$22 million, for a combined total of \$81.9 million invested in the loan programs (see table 9).

**TABLE 9. NUMBER OF GRANTS AND FUNDING FOR ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2000 TO FY 2006**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Grants</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>Nonfederal Match</b>	<b>Total Program Funds</b>
<b>2000</b>	6	\$3,792,576	\$3,792,576	\$7,585,152
<b>2001</b>	14	\$13,633,286	\$4,636,876	\$18,270,162
<b>2002</b>	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2003</b>	26	\$35,859,229	\$11,414,145	\$47,273,374
<b>2004</b>	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2005</b>	8	\$3,942,109	\$1,314,703	\$5,256,812
<b>2006</b>	3	\$2,608,060	\$869,354	\$3,477,414
<b>Total*</b>	57	\$59,835,260	\$22,027,654	\$81,862,914

\* The total number of grants does not equal the total number of AFPs because some states received multiple AFP grants.

Note: *Nonfederal match* is the share that states provide of the cost of the AFP in cash, from state, local or private sources.

Source: Grant Administration Payment System (GAPS), Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, covering awards for FY 2000–06.

Federal funding of AFPs was started with \$3.8 million awarded in FY 2000 to six states: Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah and Virginia. These states matched the federal amount dollar for dollar with an additional \$3.8 million in nonfederal funds. The six states began to implement their AFP grants in FY 2001.

In FY 2001, the match requirement was changed from one state dollar for every federal dollar to one state dollar for every three federal dollars. This change would continue for all subsequent years of funding.

In FY 2001, \$13.6 million in federal funds was awarded, with an additional \$4.6 million contributed by states in matching funds. Fourteen states received FY 2001 AFP grants. Of these states, 10 started AFPs for the first time and four states used the FY 2001 grants to expand their existing loan programs. States receiving new AFP grants in FY 2001 were Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma and Wisconsin. States receiving an additional AFP grant in FY 2001 were Maryland, Pennsylvania, Utah and Virginia. No funds to support additional AFP grants were awarded in FY 2002.

While no funds for Title III were appropriated in FY 2002, a total of \$35.8 million in federal funds was awarded to states and U.S. outlying areas in FY 2003. Twenty-six states submitted applications for FY 2003 and all received AFP grants, contributing \$11.4 million in state matching funds.

Eleven states that received FY 2003 grants had received AFP grants in prior years and used the new funds to expand their existing AFPs. These were Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. The remaining 15 states and outlying areas that received FY 2003 grants established AFPs for the first time. These states were Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the Virgin Islands. These states and outlying areas began to implement their grants in FY 2004. No funds to support additional AFP grants were awarded in FY 2004.

In FY 2005, \$3.9 million was awarded for AFP grants, and the states matched the FY 2005 federal awards with \$1.3 million. Priority for the grants was given to states that did not have existing AFPs. Priority also was given to states that had received less than \$1 million in federal funds for the operation of an AFP and to states that applied with a commitment of match in hand. Eleven states submitted applications for these grants, and eight states received awards. Two of the eight states, Alabama and Maine, started AFPs for the first time. The six remaining states had received AFP grants in prior years and used the new grant funds to expand existing programs. The states were Illinois, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Utah. Illinois received only a partial grant, however, because funds were not sufficient to meet their full request. States that received FY 2005 grants began to implement those grants during FY 2006.

In FY 2006, RSA awarded grants to the three applicants that qualified for AFP grants in FY 2005 but did not receive them. These states are Michigan, North Dakota and Wisconsin. In addition, the state of Illinois, which received only partial AFP funding in FY 2005, was awarded the remainder of its funding request in FY 2006. A total of \$2.6 million in federal AFP funds was awarded to these four states in FY 2006, with states contributing \$869,354 for a combined total of \$3.4 million.

Table 10 provides a full list of the states with Title III AFPs and the amount of state and federal funds provided.

**TABLE 10. FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING FOR ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2000 TO FY 2006**

<b>State</b>	<b>Federal Grant</b>	<b>State Match<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total Program</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	FY 2005 = \$1,500,000	FY 2005 = \$500,000	\$2,000,000
<b>Arizona</b>	FY 2001 = \$150,000	FY 2001 = \$50,000	\$200,000
<b>Arkansas</b>	FY 2001 = \$1,200,000	FY 2001 = \$400,000	\$1,600,000
<b>Delaware</b>	FY 2003 = \$905,756	FY 2003 = \$301,918	\$1,207,674
<b>Florida</b>	FY 2001 = \$630,000 FY 2003 = \$1,270,981	FY 2001 = \$210,000 FY 2003 = \$423,660	\$2,534,641
<b>Georgia</b>	FY 2003 = \$1,563,307	FY 2003 = \$521,103	\$2,084,410
<b>Illinois</b>	FY 2001 = \$2,250,000 FY 2003 = \$3,228,292 FY 2005 = \$191,940 FY 2006 = \$408,060	FY 2001 = \$750,000 FY 2003 = \$1,076,098 FY 2005 = \$63,980 FY 2006 = \$136,020	\$8,104,390
<b>Iowa</b>	FY 2003 = \$482,973	FY 2003 = \$160,991	\$643,964
<b>Kansas</b>	FY 2000 = \$742,576 FY 2003 = \$7,343,450	FY 2000 = \$742,576 FY 2003 = \$2,447,816	\$11,276,418
<b>Kentucky</b>	FY 2001 = \$1,500,000 FY 2003 = \$142,350	FY 2001 = \$500,000 FY 2003 = \$47,450	\$1,589,800
<b>Louisiana</b>	FY 2001 = \$1,500,000	FY 2001 = \$500,000	\$2,000,000
<b>Maine</b>	FY 2005 = \$750,000	FY 2005 = \$250,000	\$1,000,000
<b>Maryland</b>	FY 2000 = \$500,000 FY 2001 = \$1,104,974 FY 2003 = \$1,270,981	FY 2001 = \$500,000 FY 2001 = \$368,325 FY 2003 = \$423,660	\$4,167,940
<b>Massachusetts</b>	FY 2003 = \$1,694,641 FY 2005 = \$375,000	FY 2003 = \$564,880 FY 2005 = \$125,000	\$2,759,521
<b>Michigan</b>	FY 2001 = \$431,700 FY 2003 = \$635,491 FY 2006 = \$450,000	FY 2001 = \$143,900 FY 2003 = \$211,830 FY 2006 = \$150,000	\$2,022,921
<b>Minnesota</b>	FY 2003 = \$1,270,981	FY 2003 = \$423,660	\$1,694,641
<b>Missouri</b>	FY 2000 = \$550,000	FY 2000 = \$550,000	\$1,100,000
<b>Nebraska</b>	FY 2003 = \$635,490	FY 2003 = \$211,830	\$847,320
<b>Nevada</b>	FY 2001 = \$902,612	FY 2001 = \$393,317	\$1,295,929
<b>New Mexico</b>	FY 2003 = \$1,270,981 FY 2005 = \$100,000	FY 2003 = \$423,660 FY 2005 = \$34,000	\$1,828,641
<b>North Dakota</b>	FY 2003 = \$1,293,937 FY 2006 = \$1,000,000	FY 2003 = \$431,312 FY 2006 = \$333,334	\$3,058,583

**TABLE 10. FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING FOR ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2000 TO FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>Oklahoma</b>	FY 2001 = \$225,000 FY 2003 = \$597,361 FY 2005 = \$485,169	FY 2001 = \$75,000 FY 2003 = \$199,120 FY 2005 = \$161,723	\$1,743,373
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	FY 2000 = \$500,000 FY 2001 = \$450,000 FY 2003 = \$1,270,981 FY 2005 = \$450,000	FY 2000 = \$500,000 FY 2001 = \$150,000 FY 2003 = \$423,660 FY 2005 = \$150,000	\$3,894,641
<b>South Carolina</b>	FY 2003 = \$406,714	FY 2003 = \$135,571	\$542,285
<b>Utah</b>	FY 2000 = \$500,000 FY 2001 = \$525,000 FY 2003 = \$254,196 FY 2005 = \$90,000	FY 2000 = \$500,000 FY 2001 = \$175,000 FY 2003 = \$84,732 FY 2005 = \$30,000	\$2,158,928
<b>Vermont</b>	FY 2003 = \$635,490	FY 2003 = \$211,830	\$847,320
<b>Virginia</b>	FY 2000 = \$1,000,000 FY 2001 = \$2,464,000 FY 2003 = \$4,941,575	FY 2000 = \$1,000,000 FY 2001 = \$821,334 FY 2003 = \$1,647,192	\$11,874,101
<b>Washington</b>	FY 2003 = \$635,491	FY 2003 = \$211,830	\$847,321
<b>Wisconsin</b>	FY 2001 = \$750,000 FY 2003 = \$2,287,766 FY 2006 = \$750,000	FY 2001 = \$250,000 FY 2003 = \$762,589 FY 2006 = \$250,000	\$5,050,355
<b>Wyoming</b>	FY 2003 = \$167,770	FY 2003 = \$55,923	\$223,693
<b>Guam<sup>b</sup></b>	FY 2003 = \$508,392	FY 2003 = \$0	\$508,392
<b>Northern Marianas<sup>b</sup></b>	FY 2003 = \$508,392	FY 2003 = \$0	\$508,392
<b>U.S. Virgin Islands<sup>b</sup></b>	FY 2003 = \$635,490	FY 2003 = \$11,830	\$647,320
<b>FY 2000–06 Total</b>	\$59,835,260	\$22,027,654	\$81,862,914

<sup>a</sup> State AFP grantees provided a nonfederal share not less than 25 percent of the cost of the AFP grant award in cash from state, local or private sources. The grantee identified: 1) the amount of federal funds the state requested; 2) the amount of cash the state provided as a match; and 3) the source of the cash (Sec. 303(b)(1) of the *AT Act of 1998*). The nonfederal state match was not less than 50 percent for those programs that received AFP grant awards during the first round of funding in FY 2000.

<sup>b</sup> The three AFP grantees from outlying areas—Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and U.S. Virgin Islands—used the match waiver afforded through the *Omnibus Territorial Act* (Pub. L. No. 96-597), which waived the first \$200,000 of match funds for grants to outlying areas.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

Only certain years are listed for states because not all states submitted applications or received grant awards for each round of federal funding.

Source: Grant Administration Payment System (GAPS), Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, covering awards for FY 2000–06.

## **FY 2006 ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM DATA**

### **PROGRAM FEATURES**

As shown in table 11, AFPs in FY 2006 offered one or more alternative financing mechanisms for consumers, including loan guarantees, revolving loans, interest rate buy-downs, low interest loans and one equipment leasing program. The range of loan amounts available through AFPs was typically \$500 to \$50,000, with a few programs having no specified minimum or maximum loan amount. The range of interest rates charged to borrowers in each state varied considerably, from a low of 0 percent to a high of 12 percent, with many programs offering interest rates below prime. In FY 2006, 83 percent of approved loans had an interest rate of 6 percent or less. Repayment terms for loans varied by state, with many states offering a repayment period between five and 10 years. Loan guarantee requirements also varied widely by state. Lending institutions in about one-half of the states required AFPs to set aside 100 percent of the total amount loaned to cover possible loan defaults by consumers, while in the remaining states the amount required to be set aside was between 20 percent and 75 percent.

### **PROGRAM PARTNERS**

An AFP is administered by a community-based organization (CBO) that involves individuals with disabilities in decision-making at all organizational levels. The CBO partners with a lending institution or state financing authority to provide loans. Information provided in table 12 identifies the entities that formed partnerships with states in FY 2006.

**TABLE 11. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM FEATURES UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998 BY STATE: FY 2006**

<b>State</b>	<b>Loan Models</b>	<b>Range of Loan Amounts</b>	<b>Interest Charged to Borrower</b>	<b>Repayment Terms</b>	<b>Loan Guarantee Requirements</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	Guaranteed loan	\$3,000–\$35,000	8.25%	3–10 years	50%
<b>Arizona</b>	Guaranteed loan	\$500–\$10,000	9%–10.25%	1–3 years	100%
<b>Arkansas</b>	Revolving loan	\$500–\$50,000	Prime	Up to 20 years	n/a
<b>Delaware</b>	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low-interest loan	\$500–\$30,000	TBD	Up to 10 years	100%
<b>Florida</b>	Guaranteed loan, non-guaranteed low-interest loan	\$500–\$20,000	Prime	2–6 years	50%–100%
<b>Georgia</b>	Guaranteed loan	No minimum–No maximum	5%–7%	1/2–10 years	15% secured, 40% unsecured
<b>Illinois</b>	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, principal buy-down loan	\$500–\$40,000	3.5%–5.5%	1–20 years	66%
<b>Iowa</b>	Revolving loan, guaranteed loan	\$500–\$10,000	2%	No minimum–6 years	Variable – based on collateral
<b>Kansas</b>	Revolving loan, guaranteed loan	\$500–\$50,000	5%	1/2–10 years	100%
<b>Kentucky</b>	Guaranteed loan	\$500–\$25,000	4.75%–5.50%	1–87 years	100%
<b>Louisiana</b>	Guaranteed loan, non-guaranteed low-interest loan	\$500–\$50,000	Prime plus 1%–prime plus 2%	3–7 years	35%
<b>Maine</b>	Revolving loan	\$250–\$100,000	0%–prime	2–8 years	n/a

**TABLE 11. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM FEATURES UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998 BY STATE: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>State</b>	<b>Loan Models</b>	<b>Range of Loan Amounts</b>	<b>Interest Charged to Borrower</b>	<b>Repayment Terms</b>	<b>Loan Guarantee Requirements</b>
<b>Maryland</b>	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan, preferred rate non-guaranteed loan	\$500–\$30,000	3.25%–7.25%	1–7 years, up to 10 years for home equity loan	0%–50%
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan	\$500–No maximum	4%	2–10 years	100%
<b>Michigan</b>	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan	Up to \$30,000	3.5%–6.75%	1–7 years	100%
<b>Minnesota</b>	Revolving loan, guaranteed loan	\$2,000–No Maximum	3% below prime–2.5% below prime	1–6 years	100%
<b>Missouri</b>	Revolving loan	\$500–\$10,000	2%–4%	No minimum–5 years	n/a
<b>Nebraska</b>	Guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan	\$1,500–\$50,000	2.75%–6.25%	Up to 10 years	25%–100%
<b>Nevada</b>	Guaranteed loan	Up to \$30,000	Prime	Up to 10 years	50%
<b>New Mexico</b>	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low-interest rate loan	Up to \$20,000	CD rate plus 2%	1/2–15 years	100%
<b>North Dakota</b>	Guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan	\$500–\$50,000	1% under prime–prime	1–7 years	100%

**TABLE 11. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM FEATURES UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998 BY STATE: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>State</b>	<b>Loan Models</b>	<b>Range of Loan Amounts</b>	<b>Interest Charged to Borrower</b>	<b>Repayment Terms</b>	<b>Loan Guarantee Requirements</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan	No minimum–No maximum	5%	3–5 years	100%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan	\$100–\$25,000 (guaranteed); No maximum (non-guaranteed)	0%–4%	Up to 7 years	50%
<b>South Carolina</b>	Guaranteed loan, non-guaranteed low-interest loan	No minimum–\$30,000	5%–11%	1–10 years	25%–100%
<b>Utah</b>	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low-interest loan	\$750–\$50,000	3%–4%	2–5 years	100% for hearing aids, 0% for other AT
<b>Vermont</b>	Revolving loan, interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low-interest loan	\$500–No maximum	3%–8%	Up to 10 years	n/a
<b>Virginia</b>	Revolving loan, guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low-interest loan	No minimum–No maximum	Prime minus 4%–5%	3–10 years	50%
<b>Washington</b>	Revolving loan, Equipment leasing program*	\$250–\$10,000	4.75%–6.75%	No minimum–5 years	n/a

**TABLE 11. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM FEATURES UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998 BY STATE: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

State	Loan Models	Range of Loan Amounts	Interest Charged to Borrower	Repayment Terms	Loan Guarantee Requirements
Wisconsin	Guaranteed loan	\$1,000–\$50,000	5%–8.5%	1–10 years	20%
Wyoming	Interest rate buy-down loan	\$500–\$5,000	0%	Up to 5 years	n/a
Guam	Guaranteed loan	No minimum– No maximum	8.25%	1–5 years	75%
Northern Mariana Is.	Revolving loan, guaranteed loan	\$200–\$20,000	12%	1–7 years	100%
U.S. Virgin Islands	Interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed interest rate buy-down loan	\$300–\$15,000	4%	1–5 years	100%

\* Washington’s equipment leasing program is a fee-for-service program that enables people to rent a closed-caption television for an extended period of time.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

See table 1 for detailed descriptions of types of loan models.

*TBD* in the context of this table means to be determined at the time that information was collected.

*n/a* means not applicable.

*Loan guarantee requirement* is the guarantee percentage required by the lender to guarantee a loan. For example, if a loan guarantee requirement states that \$0.50 must be repaid for every \$1.00 approved in guaranteed loans by the lender, then the loan guarantee requirement is 50%. If \$1.00 must be reserved for every \$1.00 approved in loans by the lender, the loan guarantee requirement is 100%.

Source: Annual survey of the National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). (November 2006.)

**TABLE 12. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PARTNERS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2006**

<b>State</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	State Agency: Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services CBO: Southern Disability Foundation Lender: Regions Bank
<b>Arizona</b>	State Agency: Institute for Human Development, Northern Arizona University CBO: Arizona Community Foundation and AzLAT Consortium Lender: Arizona MultiBank
<b>Arkansas</b>	State Agency: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services CBO: Technology Equipment Revolving Loan Fund Committee Lender: Arkansas Development Finance Authority
<b>Delaware</b>	State Agency: Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation CBO: University of Delaware, Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative Lenders: DEXSTA Federal Credit Union Wilmington Trust, Wilmington Savings Fund Society
<b>Florida</b>	State Agency: Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation CBO: Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST) Lenders: AmSouth, SunTrust Bank
<b>Georgia</b>	State Agency: Georgia Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Tools for Life CBO: Tech-Able, Inc. and Georgia Credit Union Foundation Lenders: MACO Educators Federal Credit Union, Gwinnett Federal Credit Union
<b>Illinois</b>	State Agency: Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services CBO: Illinois Assistive Technology Program Lender: Security Bank
<b>Iowa</b>	State Agency: Iowa Finance Authority CBO: Iowa Able Foundation, State Public Policy Group, Abilities Fund Lenders: Bankers Trust, Veridian Credit Union

**TABLE 12. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PARTNERS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>State</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	State Agency: University of Kansas CBO: Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative Lenders: Alliance Bank of Topeka, Labette Bank
<b>Kentucky</b>	State Agency: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation CBO: Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation Lender: Fifth Third Bank of Kentucky
<b>Louisiana</b>	State Agency: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals CBO: Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network Lender: Regions Bank
<b>Maine</b>	State Agency: Maine Department of Education, Maine CITE CBO: Finance Authority of Maine Lender: mPower Loan Fund Program
<b>Maryland</b>	State Agency: Maryland Department of Disability Services, Maryland Assistive Technology Program CBO: AT Guaranteed Loan Program Board Lenders: SunTrust Bank, State Employees Credit Union of Maryland, 1st Mariner Bank
<b>Massachusetts</b>	State Agency: Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission CBO: Easter Seals Massachusetts Lender: Sovereign Bank
<b>Michigan</b>	State Agency: Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Rehabilitation Services CBO: Michigan Disability Rights Coalition Lender: Financial Health Credit Union
<b>Minnesota</b>	State Agency: Minnesota Department of Administration, STAR Program CBO: Assistive Technology of Minnesota Lenders: Bremer Bank
<b>Missouri</b>	State Agency: Missouri Assistive Technology Council CBO: Loan Application Review Committee Lender: Missouri State Treasurer

**TABLE 12. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PARTNERS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>State</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	State Agency: Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership CBO: Easter Seals Nebraska Lender: First National Bank of Omaha
<b>Nevada</b>	State Agency: Nevada Office of Community Based Services CBO: CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada Lender: Nevada State Bank
<b>New Mexico</b>	State Agency: New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation CBO: San Juan Center for Independence Lender: Four Corners Community Bank
<b>North Dakota</b>	State Agency: North Dakota Protection and Advocacy CBO: North Dakota Association for the Disabled Lender: Alerus Financial Institution
<b>Oklahoma</b>	State Agency: Oklahoma ABLE Tech CBO: Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: BancFirst of Stillwater
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	State Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development CBO: Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: Sovereign Bank
<b>South Carolina</b>	State Agency: South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department CBO: Foundation for Independence Through Empowerment Lender: South Carolina State Credit Union
<b>Utah</b>	State Agency: Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University CBO: Utah Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: Zions First National Bank
<b>Vermont</b>	State Agency: Vermont Department of Aging and Independent Living CBO: Opportunities Ventures Lender: Opportunities Credit Union

**TABLE 12. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PARTNERS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>State</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Virginia</b>	State Agency: Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services CBO: Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority Lender: SunTrust Bank
<b>Washington</b>	State Agency: Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development CBO: Washington Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: Cascadia Revolving Loan Fund
<b>Wisconsin</b>	State Agency: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services CBO: IndependenceFirst Lender: Marshall and Ilsley Bank
<b>Wyoming</b>	State Agency: Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, University of Wyoming CBO: Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc. Lender: First Interstate Bank of Laramie
<b>Guam</b>	State Agency: Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research & Service, University of Guam/CEDDERS CBO: Pacific Islands Micro Credit Institute Lender: Bank of Guam
<b>Northern Mariana Islands</b>	State Agency: CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities CBO: CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities Lender: Bank of Saipan
<b>U.S. Virgin Islands</b>	State Agency: University of Virgin Islands CBO: Virgin Islands Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: Banco Popular, Inc.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

Source: Annual survey of the National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). (November 2006.)

## **LOAN ACTIVITY**

In FY 2006, which ran from Oct. 1, 2005, to Sept. 30, 2006, 30 AFPs were operating and providing loans. Data from these AFPs show that they received 2,258 applications and provided 1,251 loans for a total amount of \$14,448,710. Nationally, about 55 percent of the applications were approved.

Comparison data from FY 2005 is provided throughout this section. For FY 2005, which ran from Oct. 1, 2004, to Sept. 30, 2005, 27 AFPs were operating and providing loans. A total of 2,023 applications were received by these AFPs and 1,178 loans—with a total amount of \$13,390,065—were provided to individuals with disabilities for the purchase of AT. Nationally, about 58 percent of the applications were approved. Table 13 shows the loan activity by state grantees for FY 2005 and FY 2006.

**TABLE 13. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM LOAN ACTIVITY UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2005 AND FY 2006**

State	FY 2005			FY 2006		
	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Amount of Loans Made (\$)	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Dollar Amt. Loans Made (\$)
Alabama	a	a	a	5	1	\$25,000
Arizona	19	5	10,629	16	5	10,918
Arkansas	8	5	26,379	18	6	31,923
Delaware	a	a	a	a	a	a
Florida	100	36	419,400	46	10	157,720
Georgia	10	4	95,843	54	38	683,401
Illinois	150	90	1,405,047	153	67	1,120,013
Iowa	40	11	53,761	60	20	124,901
Kansas	201	145	1,179,383	280	194	1,769,533
Kentucky	104	54	379,583	164	93	744,116
Louisiana	52	19	451,655	17	12	283,594
Maine	a	a	a	a	a	a
Maryland	172	77	888,542	120	50	654,968
Massachusetts	51	34	395,440	110	67	1,090,886
Michigan	164	65	441,970	140	34	214,718
Minnesota	8	6	76,785	21	16	374,836
Missouri	b	b	b	b	b	b
Nebraska	58	28	513,723	66	24	362,333
Nevada	27	17	333,766	a	a	a
New Mexico	a	a	a	21	8	104,297
North Dakota	b	b	b	12	5	71,485
Oklahoma	74	67	403,084	58	52	292,240
Pennsylvania	169	128	2,329,376	233	176	3,251,484
South Carolina	34	22	194,502	19	12	109,550
Utah	222	128	684,909	125	77	412,661
Vermont	a	a	a	17	5	39,609

**TABLE 13. ALTERNATIVE LOAN PROGRAM LOAN ACTIVITY UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2005 AND FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

State	FY 2005			FY 2006		
	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Amount of Loans Made (\$)	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Dollar Amt. Loans Made (\$)
Virginia	187	136	2,448,451	238	125	1,338,509
Washington	28	21	59,915	35	13	43,252
Wisconsin	130	68	558,801	189	105	1,013,894
Wyoming	12	9	36,177	12	10	36,487
Guam	1	1	1,444	7	4	9,147
Northern Mariana Islands	a	a	a	19	19	69,475
U.S. Virgin Islands	2	2	1,500	3	3	7,760
<b>Totals</b>	2,023	1,178	\$13,390,065	2,258	1,251	\$14,448,710

<sup>a</sup> New Mexico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Vermont were in the process of establishing their loan programs and had not begun to accept applications by Sept. 30, 2005. Alabama, a FY 2005 grant recipient, did not begin to operate its AFP until FY 2006. Delaware and Maine were in the process of establishing loan programs and had not begun to accept applications by Sept. 30, 2006. Nevada was restructuring its program in FY 2006 and did not process loans.

<sup>b</sup> Data were not submitted to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Web-based reporting system.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

Applications processed are those applications for which a decision is made in that particular fiscal year.

Source: UIC Web-based reporting system under contract with the Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Program (AFTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).

Although FY 2006 program data were submitted by all AFPs to the Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Project at RESNA, only the individual applicant data submitted to the Web-based reporting system maintained by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) are reflected in the tables of this report. Table 14 shows the loan activity by one state AFP grantee for FY 2006 that did not submit individual applicant loan data into the UIC Web-based reporting system. Therefore, the data in table 14 stand alone and are not included in the other tables created using the Web-based outcomes reporting system at UIC and the annual program data survey.

**TABLE 14. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM LOAN ACTIVITY UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998 NOT REPORTED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO (UIC) WEB-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM: FY 2006**

State	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Dollar Amount of Loans Made (\$)
Missouri	36	30	\$98,900

Source: Annual survey of the National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). (November 2006.)

#### AVERAGE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF LOANS

In FY 2006, the median loan was \$5,398 and the average amount for a loan was \$11,549. In FY 2005, the median loan provided to individuals with disabilities was \$5,243. The average amount for a loan in FY 2005 was \$11,367. The median loan is the loan amount for which one-half of the approved loan amounts are above and one-half are below (see table 15).

**TABLE 15. AMOUNT OF APPROVED ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM LOANS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2005 AND FY 2006**

Measure of Approved Loan Accounts	FY 2005 (N = 1,178)	FY 2006 (N = 1,251)
Median	\$5,243	\$5,398
Average	\$11,367	\$11,549
Minimum	\$148	\$25
Maximum	\$187,000	\$115,000

Source: UIC Web-based reporting system under contract with the Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Program (AFTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).

#### DEFAULT RATES AND NET LOSS RATES

The total dollar amount of outstanding loans (loans for which the principal was not yet repaid in full) as of Sept. 30, 2006, was \$22,570,390 from a total 2,720 loans. This total includes loans that were provided by AFPs, such as direct and guaranteed loans (see page 9 for description of these types of loans), but does not include interest rate buy-down loans or non-guaranteed loans provided solely by lending institutions. Overall, 143 loans were in default for FY 2006, with a total dollar amount of \$801,682. The FY 2006 AFP national default rate was 3.55 percent. The default rate for loan programs is calculated by dividing the total dollar amount of defaulted loans by the total dollar amount of outstanding loans.

As of Sept. 30, 2006, the amount of net losses—the dollar amount of defaulted loans minus the funds collected from collateral—was \$658,117, and the net loss rate for all AFP supported loans for FY 2006 was 2.92 percent. The net loss rate for loan programs is calculated by dividing the dollar amount of net losses by the outstanding loan amounts.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF BORROWERS**

Demographic information, such as age, sex and race, reported by borrowers for FY 2005 and FY 2006, is shown in table 16. In FY 2005 and FY 2006, data showed that more males than females were borrowers and that the largest percentage of borrowers was between 50 and 59 years of age. Most borrowers indicated that they were white. Looking at the communities where borrowers resided in FY 2005 (suburban, rural and urban areas), a slightly higher percentage of borrowers resided in urban areas. In FY 2006, data showed a significant increase in borrowers that resided in suburban areas.

### **TYPES OF AT PURCHASED**

Borrowers purchased many different types of assistive technology, as shown in table 17. In FY 2005 and FY 2006, the most frequently purchased types of AT were adapted transportation, hearing aids and mobility equipment, followed by building modifications, computer equipment and daily living equipment.

### **FUNCTIONAL AREAS THAT AT IS EXPECTED TO AFFECT**

Table 18 provides information from FY 2005 and FY 2006 loan recipients about the functional areas that the purchased AT is expected to affect. These areas were primarily mobility, social interactions, hearing and talking or other methods of communicating.

**TABLE 16. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM BORROWERS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2005 AND FY 2006**

Characteristic	FY 2005		FY 2006	
	Count	Percentage of 1,178 Approved Loans	Count	Percentage of 1,251 Approved Loans
<b>Sex of AT User</b>				
Male	549	46.6%	638	51.0%
Female	479	40.7%	594	47.5%
No response	150	12.7%	19	1.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Age of AT User</b>				
0–9 years	48	4.1%	36	2.9%
10–19 years	72	6.1%	64	5.1%
20–29 years	89	7.5%	99	7.9%
30–39 years	101	8.6%	140	11.2%
40–49 years	155	13.1%	213	17.0%
50–59 years	193	16.4%	274	21.9%
60–69 years	141	12.0%	206	16.4%
70–79 years	118	10.0%	95	7.6%
80–89 years	62	5.3%	52	4.2%
90–100 years	7	0.6%	7	0.6%
No response	192	16.3%	65	5.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**TABLE 16. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM BORROWERS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2005 AND FY 2006**

Characteristic	FY 2005		FY 2006	
	Count	Percentage of 1,178 Approved Loans	Count	Percentage of 1,251 Approved Loans
<b>Race of AT User</b>				
White	704	59.7%	701	56.0%
Black or African-American	84	7.2%	106	8.5%
Hispanic or Latino	24	2.0%	28	2.2%
American Indian, Alaskan Native	13	1.1%	11	0.9%
Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian	1	0.1%	10	0.8%
Asian Indian, Asian	1	0.1%	7	0.6%
Other	7	0.6%	9	0.7%
No response	344	29.2%	379	30.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Community of AT User</b>				
Primarily suburban	278	23.6%	522	41.7%
Primarily urban	306	26.0%	338	27.0%
Primarily rural	287	24.3%	331	26.5%
Other	267	22.7%	16	1.3%
No response	40	3.4%	44	3.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: UIC Web-based reporting system under contract with the Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Program (AFTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).

**TABLE 17. TYPES OF AT PURCHASED BY ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM BORROWERS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2005 AND FY 2006**

Type of Assistive Technology	FY 2005		FY 2006	
	Count	Percentage of 1,178 Approved Loans	Count	Percentage of 1,251 Approved Loans
Adapted transportation	559	47.4%	596	47.6%
Hearing aids	272	23.1%	253	20.2%
Mobility equipment	130	11.0%	177	14.1%
Building modifications	111	9.4%	97	7.8%
Computer equipment	72	6.1%	74	5.9%
Daily living equipment	61	5.2%	42	3.4%
Computer access	32	2.7%	21	1.7%
Seating and positioning	18	1.5%	20	1.6%
Visual aids	14	1.2%	20	1.6%
Medical equipment	20	1.7%	17	1.4%
Social and recreational	10	0.8%	12	1.0%
Communication	2	0.2%	8	0.6%
Work or school modifications	4	0.3%	6	0.5%
Environmental control	2	0.2%	4	0.3%
Farm equipment modifications	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Other needs	25	2.1%	38	3.0%

Note: Borrowers could purchase more than one piece of AT with a single loan, and therefore the count column exceeds 1,178 (FY 2005) and 1,251 (FY 2006) if summed. Therefore, the percentages reported were calculated as follows: count of loans for type of technology divided by total approved loans for that year.

Source: UIC Web-based reporting system under contract with the Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Program (AFTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)

**TABLE 18. FUNCTIONS AFFECTED BY AT PURCHASED BY ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM BORROWERS UNDER TITLE III OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998: FY 2005 AND FY 2006**

Functional Area	FY 2005		FY 2006	
	Count	Percentage of 1,179 Approved Loans	Count	Percentage of 1,251 Approved Loans
Mobility	771	65.5	849	67.9
Social interactions	386	32.8	474	37.9
Hearing	284	24.1	265	21.2
Talking and communication	216	18.3	222	17.7
Learning	109	9.2	157	12.5
Seeing	28	2.4	36	2.9
Memory	33	2.8	22	1.8
Handling skills (dexterity)	39	3.3	21	1.7
Other areas	75	6.4	80	6.4

Note: The AT purchased by the borrowers may have multiple functional impacts on the AT user, and therefore the count column exceeds 1,178 (in FY 2005) and 1,251 (in FY 2006) if summed. Therefore, the percentages reported were calculated as follows: count of types of functional impact expected divided by total approved loans for that year.

Source: UIC Web-based reporting system under contract with the Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Program (AFTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).

## SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES FOR AT LOAN RECIPIENTS: CASE STUDIES

AFPs have provided loans to help people with disabilities access all types of assistive technology, including mobility and communication devices, hearing aids and adapted transportation. The success stories presented in this section show how AFPs have provided individuals with disabilities with an essential lending resource for the purchase of AT that has aided their participation at work, school, home and in community settings.

### MASSACHUSETTS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN PROGRAM MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A low-cost loan from the Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program helped a young family obtain advanced auditory technology to help their toddler surmount his significant hearing

loss. The 2-year-old boy was born with a severe hearing loss in both ears that was diagnosed when he was just 9 days old. A school for the deaf worked with the toddler and his parents to find the best type of hearing aids, which the young boy referred to as his “listeners.” The digital hearing aids and ear molds that would best serve the young boy’s needs were costly. His parents also were told that he would require new hearing aids and ear molds every four or five years, as he outgrew them. His parents, who are teachers, knew they would have difficulty paying for the hearing aids. “It would wipe out our savings,” his mother said.

The mother searched for a loan source to finance her son’s hearing aids and found the Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program. The program provides low-cost loans to people with disabilities and their families so they can purchase the technology they need to become more independent. Easter Seals manages the program in partnership with Sovereign Bank and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. The loan the parents received was for \$3,100 for 48 months at 4 percent, with a payment of \$70 per month. This loan not only enabled them to purchase his hearing aids, it gave them increased hope for his future. “Our son is very talkative and I firmly believe it’s because of the hearing aids,” his mother said.

The family said they benefited from the quick processing of their loan by the Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program staff. “The entire process was very smooth,” said the mother. “Our questions were answered very quickly and the program director was very reassuring.”

### **GEORGIA CREDIT-ABLE—HELPING A FAMILY ATTAIN A BETTER LIFE**

A Georgia mother is providing her 22-year-old son, who has significant disabilities, with increased opportunities for a better life through an AFP loan from Credit-Able, the Georgia Assistive Technology Loan Guarantee Program. The son was born with spastic cerebral palsy, has restrictive lung disease and is hearing impaired. He uses a wheelchair and is not able to speak. The young man had stayed on a waiting list for several months to enter a special program because he did not have transportation to the center.

The center was waiting for funding to purchase vans to transport their clients. The mother was unable to transport him to the center because she could not easily transfer him from his wheelchair into the back seat of their former vehicle.

The mother applied for and received a \$56,582 loan from Credit-Able to purchase a fully converted minivan. The loan had a 5.9 percent interest rate for 10 years, with a monthly loan payment of \$625. The minivan has a ramp built into the floor for the wheelchair. Now that her son can attend the service center each day, the mother said she will be able to significantly reduce her overall expenses because she will not have to pay \$1,200 per month for a sitter who had watched her son while she was at work. In addition, her son will begin to work on specific goals, such as learning to feed himself, now that teachers at the center will be working with him daily, his mother said.

“Credit-Able is a good organization that has brought us a lot of joy,” said the mother. “Not only will I be able to take my son to and from school, but now we will be able to go to the Georgia Aquarium—something my son has been looking forward to for months.”

### **ILLINOIS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM TECHCONNECT—FACILITATING HOME OWNERSHIP**

A 51-year old Springfield, Ill., resident became a first-time homeowner with a low-interest AFP loan from the TechConnect program of the Illinois Assistive Technology Program. When the woman, who has used a wheelchair since junior high school, found a mobile home for \$30,000, she discovered it needed a lot of work to be accessible. This work included adding a wheelchair ramp and widening all the doorways as well as making modifications to the kitchen and bathroom and installing a new floor. Although a relative was helping her finance the house, the woman did not have enough money to pay also for accessibility work. The TechConnect loan for the home modifications completed her quest for an accessible home, she said. She received a TechConnect loan for \$19,611, which had a 3.5 percent interest rate for 12 years, and a monthly payment of \$167.

Before moving into her home, the woman had lived in a specially adapted apartment for 20 years, but in recent times her neighborhood had become increasingly dangerous and her family and friends had stopped visiting her. Additionally, her personal care attendant had begun taking the bus instead of driving because of car thefts and vandalism.

As she worked toward home ownership, the woman made great strides in her career, which helped her qualify for the TechConnect loan. Five years ago, the college graduate went from unemployment to employment by becoming a disability employment navigator; she works with

people with disabilities who come to an employment and training center. In fact, her extensive work for others prompted her boss at the center to coordinate the volunteer work of relatives, friends, coworkers and building suppliers who fixed up her mobile home beyond the work covered by the TechConnect loan. The extra work included wallpapering rooms as well as installation of new floors and an accessible bathroom.

“I’m excited because it’s the first time I’ve had the chance to own my own home,” she said upon moving into her home. “Now my friends will come over and my family can visit. I can cook out, and my grills won’t get stolen. I can sit on my porch at night.”

### **MICHIGAN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN FUND—MOVING FAMILIES FORWARD**

After raising a family of five daughters, a Michigan couple that has been raising a “second” family of 10 adopted children with disabilities needed to purchase a modified bus to drive their large family to medical appointments and to travel together to family events. The 10 children, ranging in age from 1 to 18 years, experienced varying types of disabilities. The family had looked for different affordable sources of financing and turned to the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund for a low-cost loan to purchase the bus and a laptop computer for their home and educational tasks.

The couple applied for and quickly received a 60-month AFP loan for the bus and computer from the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund. The loan totaled \$7,459 at 5.25 percent interest, with a monthly payment of \$141. After purchasing the bus, the couple had it modified with four sets of tie-downs for wheelchairs and a ramp for entering and exiting the vehicle. The bus not only is used for their many medical appointments, which are several miles from their home, but to transport the family to church and to special events. Before purchasing the new bus, the family had not been able to go anywhere together. The couple said they are looking forward to all the family outings they will be able to take now that they have a “family” vehicle.

### **UTAH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION—ASSISTING A SENIOR CITIZEN BY INCREASING HER INDEPENDENCE**

High tech that came with a high price prevented a retiree, who is blind, from purchasing the BrailleNote computer that she needed for home and community activities. This small assistive

technology device is fairly similar to a laptop and can carry out many useful tasks for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and the woman had used the BrailleNote daily to function independently in her former work as a rehabilitation counselor for people with disabilities. Upon retirement, the woman no longer had use of the BrailleNote at work, and she found that purchasing her own BrailleNote would cost several thousand dollars.

To solve her financial dilemma, the woman applied for a low-interest AFP loan through Utah Assistive Technology Foundation (UATF) and Zions Bank. She received a 36-month loan for \$6,269, with a monthly payment of \$174. To make the loan affordable for the woman, the UATF bought down the interest rate to 0 percent. “The low-interest rate made the length of my loan shorter and easier to pay off,” said the woman. She now uses the BrailleNote to record proceedings in meetings, take notes and download hymns and scriptures to use while in church. She also uses the BrailleNote to complete research activities. “Without the UATF, I would not have been able to buy my BrailleNote when I originally needed it,” said the woman. “This sort of equipment is so expensive that it would have taken me a long time to save money to be able to pay for it up front.”

## **CONCLUSION**

In their six years of operation, AFPs have served individuals with disabilities throughout the nation by providing increased access to assistive technology through affordable loans. The foundational investment of \$59.8 million in federal AFP funding since FY 2000, with a state contribution of \$22 million, thus far has yielded \$54.8 million in assistive technology loans to 5,114 individuals with disabilities and their families. In the future, it is anticipated that the Alternative Financing Program will be further developed and effectively utilized to meet the varied needs of more individuals with disabilities and their families.



## **PART III**

### **APPENDIXES**



**APPENDIX A**

**STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES  
CONDUCTED IN FY 2006  
UNDER THE STATE GRANTS  
FOR AT PROGRAM**



**TABLE A. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2006**

<b>State</b>	<b>How state financing was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device reutilization was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device loans were supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Subcontracts with community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Subcontracts with community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Alaska</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Memorandums of understanding with community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>▸ Videoconference</li> <li>▸ Regional demonstration sites</li> </ul>
<b>Arizona</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of resource centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of regional resource centers</li> </ul>
<b>Arkansas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>
<b>California</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Subcontracts with universities and community based-organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>
<b>Colorado</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Feasibility study for financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Online financing resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>▸ Videoconference</li> <li>▸ Regional demonstration sites</li> </ul>
<b>Connecticut</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by a subcontractor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by a subcontractor</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> <li>▸ Borrow-to-Own Low-vision Devices Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of resource centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of resource centers</li> </ul>

**TABLE A. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

State	How state financing was supported with grant funds	How device reutilization was supported with grant funds	How device loans were supported with grant funds	How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds
<b>Florida</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the state</li> <li>▸ Network of resource centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional demonstration sites</li> </ul>
<b>Georgia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Cooperative buying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Durable medical equipment reassignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of resource centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>Hawaii</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of resource centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Idaho</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Durable medical equipment reassignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Combination of community-based organizations and state-operated regional center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Combination of community-based organizations and state-operated regional center</li> </ul>
<b>Illinois</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> <li>▸ Last resort funding*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>
<b>Indiana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>Iowa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized augmentative communication device and software loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Demonstration center in the state's largest metro area</li> </ul>

**TABLE A. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

State	How state financing was supported with grant funds	How device reutilization was supported with grant funds	How device loans were supported with grant funds	How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds
<b>Kansas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> <li>▸ Telecommunications Access Program</li> <li>▸ Case management system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated through subcontract with a community-based organization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of AT access sites</li> </ul>
<b>Kentucky</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Affiliation with financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>▸ Affiliation with computer reassignment program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of regional AT resource centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of regional AT resource centers</li> </ul>
<b>Louisiana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Still in planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Still in planning</li> </ul>
<b>Maine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Consortium of partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by a subcontractor</li> <li>▸ Videoconferences</li> </ul>
<b>Maryland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> <li>▸ Cooperative buying</li> <li>▸ Devices for nursing home residents</li> <li>▸ Wheelchair ramp construction</li> <li>▸ Emergency notification systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Durable medical equipment reassignment</li> <li>▸ Two online exchanges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>

**TABLE A. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>State</b>	<b>How state financing was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device reutilization was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device loans were supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds</b>
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Home modification loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Michigan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Subcontracts with community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of regional programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Network of regional programs</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>Missouri</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> <li>▸ Last resort funding</li> <li>▸ Public school reimbursement program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> <li>▸ Durable medical equipment reassignment</li> <li>▸ Other electronic equipment reassignment</li> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>Montana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Administration of funding services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>

**TABLE A. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>State</b>	<b>How state financing was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device reutilization was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device loans were supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds</b>
<b>Nevada</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ AT for independent living program</li> <li>▸ Telecommunications equipment program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Facilitate device loans between AT companies and consumers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Center in state's largest city</li> </ul>
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Programs operated by two community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Programs operated by two community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<b>New Jersey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Plans for network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Plans for network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> <li>▸ Leveraged funding program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>▸ Two demonstration centers operated by the state</li> </ul>
<b>New York</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>North Dakota</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>Ohio</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Partnerships with public libraries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>

<b>TABLE A. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)</b>				
<b>State</b>	<b>How state financing was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device reutilization was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device loans were supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> <li>▸ Fire safety equipment program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Memorandums of agreement with partner organizations and one site operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Memorandums of agreement with partner organizations and one site operated by the state</li> </ul>
<b>Oregon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Cooperative buying program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>▸ Two demonstration centers</li> </ul>
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Telecommunications distribution program</li> <li>▸ Individual funding consultation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized inventory processed through regional centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional resource centers</li> </ul>
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Feasibility study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Subcontracts with community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Subcontracts with community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<b>South Carolina</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>▸ A centralized demonstration center</li> </ul>
<b>South Dakota</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Feasibility study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Neural Muscular Equipment Reassignment Program</li> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Closed-circuit TV program</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>Tennessee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>Texas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Feasibility study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional computer access centers</li> </ul>

**TABLE A. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

State	How state financing was supported with grant funds	How device reutilization was supported with grant funds	How device loans were supported with grant funds	How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds
<b>Utah</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Virtual network of organizations throughout state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Primary demonstration center operated by state</li> <li>▸ Regional centers operated by other organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Vermont</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Funding for children with autism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional sites operated by state and subcontracted community-based organization</li> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>
<b>Virginia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming flexibility due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Regional centers</li> </ul>
<b>Washington</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> <li>▸ Individual funding consultation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> <li>▸ Closed-circuit TV long-term rental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>
<b>West Virginia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Feasibility study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Virtual network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Primary demonstration center operated by state</li> <li>▸ Subcontracts with nonprofits</li> </ul>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Subcontracts to centers for independent living</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Subcontracts with public and private organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Wyoming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Primary demonstration center operated by state</li> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>

**TABLE A. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANTS FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2006 (CONT'D.)**

<b>State</b>	<b>How state financing was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device reutilization was supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device loans were supported with grant funds</b>	<b>How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds</b>
<b>District of Columbia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Computer reassignment</li> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by implementing entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by implementing entity</li> </ul>
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Feasibility study</li> <li>▸ Low-cost device design and development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Primary site operated by state</li> <li>▸ Regional centers operated by other organizations</li> <li>▸ Facilitate device loans between AT companies and consumers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Primary site operated by state</li> <li>▸ Regional centers operated by other organizations</li> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>
<b>American Samoa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Print exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by subcontractor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by subcontractor</li> </ul>
<b>Guam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> <li>▸ Telework loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by the territory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Centralized program operated by the territory</li> <li>▸ Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>
<b>Northern Mariana Islands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Collaborative partnerships with existing organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Collaborative partnerships with existing organizations</li> </ul>
<b>U.S. Virgin Islands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Financial loan program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Online exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Memorandums of understanding with community-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Memorandums of understanding with community-based organizations</li> </ul>

\*When no other resources, public or private, will pay for the assistive technology device or service, an individual with a disability may qualify for a program of last resort.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, Sec. 7(32).

*Centralized Program Operated by the State* means a program operated directly by the lead agency from a single location.

*Centralized Program Operated by the Implementing Entity* means a program operated directly by the implementing entity from a single location.

Source: State plans for assistive technology, submitted to RSA in August 2005. Last accessed Dec. 11, 2008, from <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/state-plans/2006/index.html>.

## **APPENDIX B**

# **STATEWIDE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM PROFILES**



Note: The information contained in the state profiles reflects the activities states planned for and began during the three-year period covered by their state plan for assistive technology (FY 2006 through 2008). The information in the profiles was submitted by states in May 2007 and reflects the states' activities as of that month as pertains to their intended and executed plans for FY 2006 through FY 2008. Therefore, the information contained in the state profiles may differ from the FY 2006 information reported in Part I of this document, which was based on state plans submitted in 2005.

The term *not applicable* in the context of the statewide AT program profiles that follow means that a state either has a lead agency alone or an implementing entity.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ALABAMA**

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Lead Agency: Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS)

Implementing Entity: Not applicable

Program Title: Statewide Technology Access and Response (STAR)

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**State Financing Activities**

STAR will support an alternative financing program (AFP). The loan program will be operated by the Southern Disability Foundation, which will provide a variety of low-interest and extended term loans for the purchase of AT.

**Device Reutilization**

STAR will partner with Goodwill Industries, Easter Seals, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), and the Opportunity Center-Easter Seals to administer community-based recycling and equipment reutilization programs that increase options for acquiring AT by individuals with disabilities. The programs will receive donations of used devices, refurbish the devices and lend the items on a first-come, first-served basis to individuals who have no other means of obtaining such AT.

**Device Loan**

STAR will partner with different entities throughout the state to provide short-term loans of AT utilizing trained therapists and rehabilitation specialists through UCP, Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS) Augmentative Communication Technology Clinics, Older Alabamians Systems of Information and Services (OASIS) senior and homebound services and blind-deaf services to persons with disabilities, and to rehabilitation and education professionals who wish to try out and assess different types of devices. The standard loan period will be two weeks; however, loans may be extended on a case-by-case basis. Equipment loans are made statewide, and STAR will continually review the need for expanding and improving the program.

**Device Demonstration**

STAR will perform demonstrations of AT devices throughout the state in cooperation with a rehabilitation technology specialist as well as physical, occupational and speech therapists. STAR-employed coordinators also provide "specialized training programs" that include device demonstration. STAR plans to combine the program with device loan activities as a means of expanding and improving device demonstrations to ensure statewide coverage.

**State Leadership Activities**

STAR collaborates with state and community-based organizations to provide training and technical assistance on issues related to AT in the lives of persons with disabilities. STAR plans to increase public awareness by enhancing Web links to include in-depth information on the four state-level activities and an interactive feature providing an opportunity for individuals to contact reutilization programs, view a listing of sale items, apply online for the Alternative Financing Program, and access information and referral services, which is also available toll-free.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ALASKA**

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Lead Agency:	Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Alaska Statewide AT Program

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### **State Financing Activities**

Alaska has a state alternative financing program to provide loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT by providing loan guarantees. Alaska's statewide AT program will administer this Assistive Technology Loan Guarantee Fund with the assistance of Northrim Bank.

### **Device Reutilization**

The statewide AT program works with the Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA), a nonprofit organization, to operate "Swap Shop," an Internet-based equipment exchange program in which a seller can post an ad for AT, and a buyer can purchase used AT at a negotiated price.

### **Device Loan**

Through ATLA, Alaska's statewide AT program will consolidate the state's existing device loan programs into a single loan program that is monitored at a central location, creating a consortium that brings together all AT devices available for loan through one Internet-based system. This will be accomplished through agreements with a network of seven agencies or organizations across the state.

### **Device Demonstration**

Alaska's statewide AT program will establish a network of device demonstration programs in conjunction with the device loan programs described above and will work with independent living centers that provide device demonstrations, with hopes of establishing a network of 10 organizations involved in demonstrations. Demonstrations also will be provided to the community and by using videoconferences to demonstrate the devices remotely.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Through ATLA, Alaska's statewide AT program has agreements with five community-based organizations throughout the state to provide training and technical assistance about AT. ATLA will offer training via presentations, videoconferencing and the Web to those working in the areas of employment, human services, health services, education, government and the private sectors. Additionally, ATLA will provide a toll-free information and referral service, a newsletter, Web site and publications about AT.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ARIZONA**

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Lead Agency:	Northern Arizona University (NAU), Institute for Human Development (IHD)
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP)

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**State Financing Activities**

AzTAP directly operates two state financing activities—Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology (AzLAT) and Arizona Loans for AT-Telework (AzLAT-T)—for the purchase of AT. The AzLAT Consortium administers the program. Arizona MultiBank Community Development Corporation services the loans and AzLAT, through its Donor Advised Funds at the Arizona Community Foundation, provides the loan guarantee to MultiBank in case of borrower default.

**Device Reutilization**

AzTAP has initiated an online equipment exchange program called the Arizona Assistive Technology Equipment Exchange (ATEX). The program allows individuals or organizations to buy, sell, trade or donate used AT through a Web-based want ads format.

**Device Loan**

AzTAP operates short-term equipment loan programs directly and through its network of AT regional resource centers. AzTAP has expanded its equipment lending programs, including management of the device loan library for the Arizona Department of Education.

**Device Demonstration**

AzTAP currently supports device demonstration programs through its network of five AT regional resource centers—the AzTAP central office in Phoenix; the AT Resource Center on the campus of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff; and three subcontracted AT resource centers located in Phoenix, Tucson and the Navajo Reservation in Tuba City. AzTAP also works with the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide a network of demonstration sites for the state-funded Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program so that people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech impaired can have access to free, adapted telephone-related equipment.

**State Leadership Activities**

AzTAP customizes training and technical assistance for individuals and organizations that request training on specific topics or technical assistance to improve organizational capacity related to AT. AzTAP continues to sponsor a collaborative, statewide AT conference each year. AzTAP disseminates free training materials and publications, provides a toll-free information and assistance service, offers updated in-depth resources on its Web site and is resuming publication of its newsletter.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ARKANSAS**

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Lead Agency:	Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS)
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN)

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### **State Financing Activities**

An alternative financing program and telecommunications access program will be accomplished through comparable nonfederal resources rather than through *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended, funding. Both activities are statewide, comprehensive programs administered by ARS.

### **Device Reutilization**

ICAN will operate two device reutilization programs. The Device Recycling Program will refurbish a wide range of AT devices for donation to individuals with disabilities and agencies. Equipment that is ready for distribution will be listed on ICAN's Web site and shared with individuals and agencies. Equipment Exchange is a classified ad listing of used equipment available for sale, trade or donation by consumers throughout the state. ICAN will implement a statewide campaign to expand the awareness and benefits of AT reutilization as well as the many resources available through the state AT program.

### **Device Loan**

ICAN's AT Loan Program will accept applications for equipment loans from a person with a disability, family members, advocates or service providers. Borrowers are expected to make arrangements for pickup and drop-off of the device whenever possible. Most device loans will be for a period of two weeks with the potential for extension.

### **Device Demonstration**

ICAN will coordinate with agencies located throughout Arkansas to provide AT device demonstrations to consumers, families, students, professionals and other interested people upon request and at conferences, workshops and other presentation opportunities.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ICAN will collaborate with the Arkansas Department of Education to cosponsor training to increase the knowledge, skills and competency of educators, therapists and others in the public school system. ICAN will respond to requests for technical assistance and provide a toll-free information and referral service on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities. Additional planned activities include: a Web site featuring in-depth program information, training materials and publications, a quarterly newsletter, promotion of a statewide AT conference and presentations to targeted populations.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: CALIFORNIA**

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Lead Agency: State of California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: California Assistive Technology Systems (CATS) Program

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**State Financing Activities**

An alternative financing program will be accomplished through comparable nonfederal resources rather than through *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended, funding. The state of California will offer low-interest, guaranteed loans to finance AT or modified transportation through an assistive technology and modified transportation loan guarantee program (LGP). LGP will be carried out in collaboration with one or more lenders.

**Device Reutilization**

CATS will develop a work group to research effective reutilization programs within the state. After completing this research, CATS will begin implementing a device reutilization program in the second year of the state plan. By the third year of the plan, CATS plans to have a device reutilization program fully implemented.

**Device Loan**

CATS currently does not support a device loan program. In year one of the state plan, CATS will identify entities within California that have device loan programs and develop a work group. After completing this research, CATS will begin implementing a device loan program in the second year of the state plan. By the third year of the plan, CATS plans to have a device loan program fully implemented.

**Device Demonstration**

California will not use *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended, funds to support demonstration centers. California has 29 centers for independent living that currently receive funding from the state to operate demonstration centers. CATS will conduct outreach and education to identify additional device demonstration programs throughout California.

**State Leadership Activities**

The CATS program will develop and conduct training to targeted entities, such as training opportunities on AT to staff at the state's One-Stop Career Centers. CATS will continue to provide a toll-free information and referral service and to enhance AT awareness through the use of public service announcements on television and radio stations, advertisement banners and information kiosks in various offices. Issue briefs and informational articles regarding AT also will be disseminated throughout the state to increase awareness.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: COLORADO**

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Lead Agency:	University of Colorado Health Science Center (UCHSC), Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Colorado Assistive Technology Partners (ATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

Colorado ATP will conduct a feasibility study for developing an alternative financing program. Colorado also will create an accessible, statewide online database that will quickly enable individuals with disabilities to determine how and where they should proceed to secure adequate funding to meet AT device and service needs.

### **Device Reutilization**

Colorado will offer an AT device exchange program through a Web-enabled storefront. People who want to donate or sell a device will post the item on the Web site. Those who want to buy used AT products will be able to view the devices available on the Web site. The exchange program will assist individuals to acquire AT devices at a discount or for free.

### **Device Loan**

ATP will create the AT Device Loan Bank, an online, fully accessible, Web-enabled catalog for persons with disabilities, family members and professionals to identify the AT items available in the statewide loan bank and to check out devices for trial usage. People can borrow the devices for up to two weeks, with possible extension of the loan term if the device is not needed by anyone else.

### **Device Demonstration**

Colorado's device demonstration program will operate closely with the AT Device Loan Bank program. ATP will conduct monthly open houses that focus on a particular type of equipment, such as AT for early childhood development. Staff will travel throughout the state to trade shows, conferences, schools, vocational rehabilitation offices and other locations to demonstrate a wide variety of technology, provide information and increase public awareness. The program will conduct a minimum of 30 device demonstration events each year.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ATP hosts an annual Rocky Mountain Regional Collaborative Conference in partnership with statewide AT programs from New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona, Utah and Nebraska. Colorado provides a toll-free information and referral service, a newsletter available in electronic and print forms, a Web site and informational publications and brochures on AT.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: CONNECTICUT**

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Lead Agency:	Connecticut State Department of Social Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Connecticut Tech Act Program

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### **State Financing Activities**

The Connecticut Tech Act Project will operate the Connecticut Tech Act Loan Fund (CTALF) in partnership with a new bank. While loan payment periods will not exceed five years, low-interest rates will establish monthly payments within 50 percent of an applicant's discretionary income. Plans are underway to locate and enter into partnership with a new bank, to lengthen the allowable payment period for individuals and to establish Web-based applications.

### **Device Reutilization**

The New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Marketplace will operate the Connecticut Equipment Restoration Center (ERC). Individuals and organizations can make tax-deductible donations of durable medical equipment and other AT to NEAT. Certified technicians on staff at the ERC will restore the equipment so it is available to the end user at significantly reduced prices. A satellite ERC has been established in the southern part of Connecticut through a partnership with the Connecticut Tech Act Program, NEAT and an independent living center. Connecticut also has established a Web-based AT exchange where AT devices can be sold or donated to residents of Connecticut and across the New England region.

### **Device Loan**

NEAT will operate an AT lending library that enables professional members to borrow and take items to their facilities or to their clients' homes for trial to determine the correct piece of equipment that will meet the needs of the individual. Plans are underway to establish a Web-based AT Exchange specifically for school systems to loan AT devices to other school systems throughout Connecticut.

### **Device Demonstration**

The NEAT Demonstration Center will provide information and hands-on experience with a wide variety of AT devices. The state program plans to create additional capacity for demonstrating AT by soliciting proposals from existing networks to add another comprehensive demonstration site and a demonstration equipment replacement plan to assure retiring of inventory and new technology in the program.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The Connecticut Tech Act Project has developed the Technology Mentoring Program, a network of peers that can provide training and technical assistance to individuals that need AT. Mentors in the Tech Mentoring Program will offer expertise, support and guidance to access and acquire AT devices and services and to assist in the integration of AT in education, employment, telecommunication and community living. Connecticut will provide a toll-free information and referral service, distribute a quarterly newsletter and incorporate Web-based applications into the statewide AT program.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: DELAWARE**

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Lead Agency:	University of Delaware, Center for Applied Science and Engineering
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)

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**State Financing Activities**

DATI will conduct three state financing activities. The Delaware Assistive Technology Loan Program (DATLP) and the Delaware Telework Equipment Loan Program (DTELP) will make financial loans available to qualified individuals for the purchase of AT, home modifications and vehicle modifications. Following finalization of the contract with a lending partner, the program will feature a customized approach to lending, including the availability of guarantees and interest subsidies when necessary. The Borrow-to-Own Low-vision Devices (BOLD) Program is a new financing activity that makes AT available at no cost to qualifying individuals with vision loss.

**Device Reutilization**

DATI will administer an AT Exchange Program (ATEX) that enables individuals to buy, sell or give away used AT through Web-based want ads. DATI will work in collaboration with Delaware Medicaid to explore the viability of a program that would reclaim and repurpose equipment no longer needed by the original recipients. The AT Exchange also plans to implement a feedback capability that will allow program staff to follow up with users of the system.

**Device Loan**

DATI will operate a device loan program through its network of three AT resource centers (ATRCs). The statewide inventory includes over 1,400 augmentative communication devices, aids for daily living and sensory aids. Persons with disabilities and service providers who want to learn how to use the AT or wish to try it out can go online and select devices organized into 20 categories, with the option of contacting the nearest ATRC to discuss arrangements for borrowing a device.

**Device Demonstration**

DATI's demonstration program will operate in conjunction with its existing three ATRC loan programs. All equipment in the inventory will be available for demonstration and resident AT specialists are skilled at assisting consumers, family members and disability-related organizations to become more informed as to the devices that might work for them.

**State Leadership Activities**

DATI will develop numerous training modules—ranging from two-hour sessions to a training series spanning several days—for specific audiences and on specific AT topics. DATI will increase awareness of AT through a quarterly newsletter, a toll-free information and referral service, a Web site, community events, statewide conferences, and training materials and publications on AT that also will be made available in Spanish.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: FLORIDA**

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Lead Agency:	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Implementing Entity:	Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)
Program Title:	FAAST

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### **State Financing Activities**

FAAST administers two loan guarantee programs: an alternative financing program for the purchase of AT and the Access to Telework Program for the purchase of equipment needed to set up a home-based business or to work from home for an employer.

### **Device Reutilization**

FAAST has implemented a Web-based device reutilization program called “AT Bay” that allows consumers and other individuals to sell or give away and find equipment. FAAST also has continued its partnership with centers for independent living around the state to support their device reutilization efforts. Through six regional demonstration centers, FAAST facilitates the reutilization of AT equipment. FAAST’s computer recycling program has continued to grow in scope and numbers of consumers served every year.

### **Device Loan**

FAAST has successfully implemented an equipment loan program that serves the entire state. FAAST developed a Web-based program that enables consumers to browse the entire inventory from the FAAST Web site and make requests for equipment via e-mail. FAAST pays for the shipping of devices to consumers as well as the cost of shipping the devices back to FAAST. In addition to a statewide inventory in Tallahassee, each of the FAAST regional demonstration centers purchased the devices most requested by the consumers in their regions. Those devices are lent to consumers or providers who come into the centers.

### **Device Demonstration**

FAAST maintains six regional demonstration centers in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa and Miami. The staff conducts device demonstrations on a daily basis to consumers who come into the centers and as part of outreach and education efforts in their communities.

### **State Leadership Activities**

FAAST is very involved in statewide advocacy and works closely with state agencies to ensure that Florida’s public policies provide individuals with disabilities with appropriate access to AT. FAAST public awareness activities include a toll-free information and referral service, Web site information, resource libraries, exhibits, public forums and *FAAST Access Magazine* that is distributed to 5,000 individuals and businesses, including state agencies.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: GEORGIA**

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Lead Agency: Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL)  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Tools For Life (TFL)

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### **State Financing Activities**

TFL will support Credit-Able, Georgia's alternative financing program, to provide guaranteed loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. TFL will work with such organizations as Tech-Able, the Getting Ahead Association and the Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) to expand CreditAble and ensure that individuals with disabilities are referred appropriately between programs in order to try out devices before they take out loans to purchase AT. TFL also will research the possibility of developing an AT cooperative buying program.

### **Device Reutilization**

TFL will conduct two device reuse activities—the ReBoot Computer Reutilization Project and G-Trade, an online AT equipment exchange program. G-Trade allows individuals to buy, sell or give away used AT through want ads. ReBoot acquires equipment, evaluates and repairs it, loads licensed software and distributes and provides computer training. Every region of Georgia is served by ReBoot, a collaborative effort operated by people with disabilities for people with disabilities.

### **Device Loan**

The Tools for Life AT Loan Library Program will ship a device to any location in the state. The length of device loan is two to four weeks with the possibility of extension. TFL will contract for ATRC services with Disability Connections, Tech-Able, Touch the Future and Walton Options. Tools for Life will collaborate with the network of ATRCs to grow the AT Loan Library Program.

### **Device Demonstration**

TFL will contract with a network of Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) to conduct device demonstrations across the state. Each center will stock a core set of devices for demonstration. TFL will ensure the needs of individuals are met by annually evaluating the comprehensiveness of the AT device demonstration programs with regard to type of equipment and audiences reached.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Training will be developed to include information about TFL programs, AT resources and AT funding strategies. TFL will increase awareness about the benefits of AT through a toll-free information and referral service; an in-depth Web site featuring the development of a quarterly newsletter; biannual statewide conferences; and training materials and publications provided free of charge.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: HAWAII**

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Lead Agency:	Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division
Implementing Entity:	Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC)
Program Title:	ATRC

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### **State Financing Activities**

ATRC, working with American Savings Bank (ASB) of Hawaii, supports the Hawaii Assistive Technology (HAT) Loan Program to offer Hawaii residents low-interest loans at affordable terms to acquire AT devices and services that enhance independence in the home, workplace and community. The HAT Loan Program funds are used to guarantee the money borrowed through ASB.

### **Device Reutilization**

ATRC plans to create a Computer Redistribution Program and an AT Equipment Relocation Program to carry out device reutilization activities. The computer systems redistribution will be stocked by donated computers from Hawaii businesses and other sources and made ready for free distribution to persons with disabilities. The Equipment Relocation Program will bring together buyers and sellers of AT in the state of Hawaii and will be administered at both the physical location of ATRC offices and through an online portal designed to provide statewide accessibility.

### **Device Loan**

ATRC plans to create the “AT Depot” device loan program that provides a short-term loan of AT devices and other such educational materials as AT videos and publications. These short-term loans allow for the use of a trial device for assessment and evaluation and a temporary device for use while a primary device is repaired or maintained. The AT Depot will be administered through four physical locations—at the ATRC office and at partner agency locations on the islands of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii.

### **Device Demonstration**

ATRC plans to provide device demonstration centers throughout the state, at the main ATRC office and on the neighbor islands of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii. The primary goal of the demonstration centers is to provide an opportunity for consumers to learn about AT devices and try them out.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ATRC plans to provide training activities through conferences, such as the Tools for Life Hawaii Expo, scheduled workshops and open training sessions. Technical assistance will continue to be provided in coordination with the Pacific ADA and IT Center. ATRC will provide a toll-free information and referral service; a biannual newsletter; an AT daily living guide geared for the *kupuna* or senior population in Hawaii; and a Web site, including a one-stop database of links to resources.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: IDAHO**

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Lead Agency: University of Idaho, Center on Disabilities and Human Development  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Idaho Assistive Technology Project (IATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

IATP will operate the Idaho Assistive Technology Loan Fund, which offers loan guarantees and interest subsidies to provide financial loans for the purchase of AT. IATP will administer the fund while sharing responsibilities with three other entities: Zions First National Bank, Key Bank of Idaho and Idaho Community Foundation.

### **Device Reutilization**

IATP has a fully accessible Web-based equipment exchange program to increase the availability of used AT devices for persons with disabilities. An individual no longer in need of an AT device who wants to sell or give the device away can contact IATP through the Web site or existing toll-free telephone line and request to post an ad.

### **Device Loan**

Through partnerships and its own regional AT center, IATP will support a number of AT device loan programs. It will support seven hearing assistance centers operated by the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing that loan hearing assistance equipment. It also will support the Equipment Lending Library at United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), the only statewide, short-term AT and developmental toy loan program in the state of Idaho. UCP staff assists with the selection of appropriate devices and toys, which are shipped statewide at no cost. The IATP also supports the north Idaho Assistive Technology Center that is housed at the Hand and Healing Therapy Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

### **Device Demonstration**

IATP will operate an AT demonstration program by assisting and supporting three regional AT centers, seven hearing assistance centers and a network of assistive technology practitioners (ATPs) who will lend their expertise and guide individuals through a comparison of devices.

### **State Leadership Activities**

IATP maintains a half-time training coordinator, full-time information and public awareness specialist and project director and a half-time loan program coordinator, all of whom deliver AT training and technical assistance throughout the year. The project also will collaborate with three regional centers and the network of ATPs to conduct statewide training on a variety of AT-related topics. The toll-free IDA-Tech telephone number (1-800-IDA-Tech; 1-800-432-8324) provides an information and referral service on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities. IATP disseminates information on the benefits of AT through its Web site; training materials and publications; and quarterly newsletter. The IATP participates in sponsoring the annual Tools for Life Conference in collaboration with the Idaho Department of Education and the Secondary Transition Task Force.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ILLINOIS**

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Lead Agency:	Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
Implementing Entity:	Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP)
Program Title:	IATP

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**State Financing Activities**

IATP operates a statewide alternative financing program and Access to Telework Loan Program. The AFP offers a low-interest rate, extended repayment plans, buy-down principal and relaxed credit standards so those who would otherwise not qualify for a loan have a chance to finance needed AT. The Telework Program is also a low-interest, guarantee, interest buy-down loan program that assists persons with disabilities in borrowing money to obtain equipment, AT and home modifications needed for self-employment or telework.

**Device Reutilization**

IATP's reutilization program, AT Classifieds, is designed as an accessible online AT exchange that will assist consumers of AT to buy, sell or donate pieces of used AT equipment. It also will be available in print form and a listing of used AT equipment will be periodically published in IATP's quarterly newsletter.

**Device Loan**

IATP's AT Device Loan Program is the only free, statewide device loan program available in Illinois. There are currently 1,000 devices in IATP's inventory. The devices are assembled and shipped out to the borrower anywhere in the state. The expense to ship AT to a borrower is covered by the program. Return shipping expenses are the responsibility of the borrower. The equipment is available for short-term loans that range from four to six weeks. A loan period can be extended if no one is waiting for a particular device.

**Device Demonstration**

IATP will operate the AT Device Demonstration Center in Springfield, Ill., which contains an accessible kitchen and bathroom and other rooms featuring workplace technologies, sensory aids, adapted toys and switches, aids for daily living and augmentative communication devices. If an individual or group is unable to travel to the center, IATP staff will pack up and transport AT devices to another location to conduct an off-site demonstration to assist a person to make an informed choice.

**State Leadership Activities**

IATP will offer AT training programs on a statewide basis and work with public and private agencies to customize workshops to meet AT needs in such topical areas as older adults, early intervention, education, employment and activities of daily living, as well as around specific disabilities. IATP also has various training materials—from print to accessible DVDs—that will be shared with targeted audiences and by request.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: INDIANA**

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Lead Agency:	Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services
Implementing Entity:	Assistive Technology Through Action in Indiana (Attain)
Program Title:	Attain

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**State Financing Activities**

Attain provides loans to individuals with disabilities for the purchase of AT devices and services through Attain-a-Loan, a low-interest, extended-term alternative financing loan program. Attain's partnership with Fifth Third Bank, with locations across the state, offers loans that range between \$500 and \$5,000. Attain will often guarantee loans for those who would not be eligible for conventional bank loans.

**Device Reutilization**

The Attain-a-Computer program and the Equipment Exchange Network assist in the sale, purchase, trade or donation of used AT devices. Anyone can contact Attain toll-free or via Web site to sell, give away or buy a used AT device through the Equipment Exchange Network. The Attain-a-Computer program is a certified Microsoft refurbisher which allows it to install Windows to donated computers that Attain will refurbish and provide at no cost to qualified people with disabilities.

**Device Loan**

Attain will operate a short-term equipment loan program providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to request up to three devices at any one time. The length of the device loan is four to six weeks with a possible extension. In order to maintain and expand its loan program, Attain may charge rental fees based on a sliding scale.

**Device Demonstration**

Attain will identify and develop regional demonstration centers through a network of partners with AT knowledge. Partner sites will store essential equipment and host demonstration events. Attain's qualified staff may demonstrate a number of available devices and work with the individual or family to gain access to a device through Attain's short-term equipment loan program. Training on how to use a device also is provided to the consumer.

**State Leadership Activities**

Trainings will occur throughout the year and a schedule will be published in Attain's quarterly newsletter and on Attain's Web site and will be announced in other agency newsletters and outreach efforts. Training materials and publications that cover AT information will be developed and disseminated, and consumers can access a toll-free statewide information and referral service on a wide range of specific issues for people of all ages with all types of disabilities.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: IOWA**

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Lead Agency: University of Iowa, Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD)  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)

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**State Financing Activities**

Iowa's alternative financing program, the Iowa Able Foundation, will provide loans to people with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. In addition to the loan guarantee, the Iowa Able Foundation offers other flexible options, such as a reduced interest rate and longer loan terms with smaller payments. IPAT contracts with the state public policy group to staff and provide programmatic support to the Iowa Able Foundation Advisory Board, which uses funds to subcontract with a nonprofit organization, the Abilities Fund, to operate the AFP. Abilities Fund also operates the Telework grant that issues loans to persons with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home.

**Device Reutilization**

IPAT will directly administer a Used Equipment Referral Service (UERS), which is a free service that operates like a newspaper want ad and lists used devices for sale by consumers and AT vendors. IPAT is also the primary financial supporter for Easter Seals Iowa Equipment Services, a device recycling program that accepts donated used devices from across the state, cleans and refurbishes the AT, and provides long-term loans to individuals who would not otherwise be able to acquire the needed device. In addition, Iowa will continue to maintain a comprehensive listing of all the device reutilization and recycling programs in Iowa and neighboring states (approximately 218).

**Device Loan**

IPAT will directly administer the augmentative communication device and software loan program out of the Disability Resource Library (DRL). Funding limits do not allow for further development of a device loan program at this time.

**Device Demonstration**

IPAT contracts with Easter Seals Iowa to develop and operate a device demonstration center in Des Moines. This center will focus on devices for community living and activities of daily living. IPAT is investigating alternative funding and will expand if funding is identified.

**State Leadership Activities**

IPAT will engage in a number of such leadership activities as maintaining a contract with the Iowa Department of Education to provide training and technical assistance to all the Area Education Agency (AEA) AT liaisons and teachers across the state of Iowa. Information and referral is provided by Iowa COMPASS, a toll-free, statewide information and referral service that is also accessible via e-mail and the Web.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: KANSAS**

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Lead Agency: Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK)

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### **State Financing Activities**

ATK will conduct four state financing activities. It will work with the Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative (KATCO) to operate an alternative financing program to assist persons to acquire AT and to operate the Kansas Telework Loan Program to support working from remote locations. KATCO works with Kansas financial institutions to offer a reduced interest, extended payback period, financial loan program. Additionally, ATK will provide case management by AT funding specialists to assist consumers in acquiring AT, and it will determine eligibility and equipment justification services for its Telecommunications Access Program (TAP).

### **Device Reutilization**

ATK will offer three reutilization activities. (1) The Kansas Equipment Exchange (KEE) Program, which will operate in conjunction with Kansas Medicaid Policy and Kansas University to track equipment purchases, affix an electronic tracking code on new equipment and maintain a real-time database of KEE inventory. Equipment no longer needed by the Medicaid beneficiaries is returned to the program so that it can be refurbished and reused by a new consumer. (2) The ATK equipment reutilization program for expensive technology that does not meet the definition of durable medical equipment required by the KEE Program. This small reutilization program for expensive equipment, therefore, will focus on devices that are not medical in nature and therefore would not be purchased or tracked by Medicaid. (3) Kansas will operate [atmatch.com](http://atmatch.com)<sup>11</sup>, an AT auction site available to persons throughout the country who have access to the Internet and wish to buy, sell or donate AT.

### **Device Loan**

ATK will operate a short-term AT equipment loan program known as the Statewide Interagency Equipment Loan System. The length of the device loan is four weeks; a rental fee and shipping costs will be assessed for each item based on a sliding scale.

### **Device Demonstration**

ATK staff will provide demonstrations to individuals and small groups at regional AT access sites and at off-site locations, such as schools, homes and worksites. ATK plans to expand the demonstration equipment inventory at the regional AT access sites and at the Statewide Interagency Equipment Loan System.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The toll-free KAN DO-IT line offers a free information and referral service on AT. The Web site provides resources and an opportunity to directly contact ATK programs' staff through a

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<sup>11</sup> The Web site, [www.atmatch.com](http://www.atmatch.com), is currently expired as of Nov. 6, 2008.

comprehensive directory that includes listings for ATK project management, the individual access sites and allied personnel, and a comprehensive site map showing which counties are served by the regional access site. Training materials and publications on a broad array of AT-related issues are available free of charge in any requested alternative format.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: KENTUCKY**

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Lead Agency: Office for the Blind  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network

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**State Financing Activities**

The KATS Network provides technical support to the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC), an alternative financing program that is partnered with Fifth-Third Bank to provide a low-interest loan program bolstered by loan guarantees. Loans provided through KATLC help consumers obtain devices by providing specially structured loan funds at an affordable interest rate so they can purchase their own AT.

**Device Reutilization**

Three primary recycling efforts are planned by the KATS Network for continuing operation and targeted expansion in Kentucky: the Assistive Technology Exchange List (ATEX), New Life Computers, and the Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRC) Recycling Program. The ATEX is a classified ad listing of assistive devices available on the KATS Web site that are offered for sale or donated by and for consumers. New Life Computers is a Kentucky affiliate of the National Cristina Foundation (NCF) initiative, a collaborative effort to provide recycled computers for persons with disabilities. The ATRC Recycling Program will provide used AT and locally refurbished computer units.

**Device Loan**

The ATRCs will conduct a device loan program enabling consumers to borrow AT devices for 30-day trial periods. Extended loans for a period up to six months may be provided, depending on the availability of the equipment. The KATS Network has expanded inventory and is coordinating uniform policies and procedures statewide. The work to increase awareness of the program will continue.

**Device Demonstration**

The KATS Network is delivering a device demonstration program primarily through contracts with the regional ATRCs. Each ATRC has increased its wide array of AT devices for demonstration, which include individual and group activities designed to explore a range of available AT devices, individual consultations to support appropriate device selection and individual or group training to support appropriate usage of a specific device.

**State Leadership Activities**

The KATS Network will provide training and technical assistance to individual consumers, professionals, groups and organizations. Activities include collaboration with the Office for the Blind and Vocational Rehabilitation to provide technical assistance to the 16 education cooperatives regarding the transition from secondary to postsecondary or employment, as well as other outreach efforts to organizations and agencies. KATS is continuing to provide publications

on AT, an in-depth Web site, e-mail lists and listserv distributions and a toll-free information and referral service.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: LOUISIANA**

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Lead Agency: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)  
Implementing Entity: Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)  
Program Title: LATAN

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### **State Financing Activities**

LATAN operates the reduced-interest, fixed-rate, extended term Alternative Financing Program. Loan applications are available online, by a statewide toll-free number, in LATAN's office, at all Regions Bank offices and at various agencies across the state of Louisiana.

### **Device Reutilization**

LATAN operates three reutilization programs—emergency equipment distribution, computer recycling and a used equipment exchange online database. LATAN will continue to operate a low-cost computer ReUse program, partnering with the local nonprofit computer recycler Capital Area Corporate Recycling Center, to deliver rebuilt computer systems to the doors of Louisiana consumers with disabilities. A statewide database of devices listed on The AT Marketplace: Louisiana's Assistive Technology Classifieds is available for low or no cost and provides a link to atmatch.com, an internet-based service available to anyone from a participating state.

### **Device Loan**

Since it does not currently operate a device loan program, LATAN will explore models used by other states, determine partners and resources needed based on exploration and develop a plan for implementation. LATAN envisions coordinating the activities of existing loan programs and filling in the gaps for a statewide, comprehensive program.

### **Device Demonstration**

Based on what is learned from looking at demonstration program models in other states, LATAN will set up a center in Baton Rouge, and will reach out with demonstrations to the northwest region of the state, a previously underserved area, in addition to other areas. In addition, LATAN will work to coordinate and collaborate with existing device demonstration resources throughout Louisiana.

### **State Leadership Activities:**

LATAN developed an Assistive Technology for Aging in Place training module targeted for older individuals, their caregivers and service providers and is using the module for trainings and presentations. Technical assistance includes assisting with the development of AT services in programs that provide long-term care. LATAN offers public awareness activities through presentations, exhibits and public service announcements (PSAs). People of all ages with all disabilities can benefit from LATAN's toll-free information and referral service. Resources also are updated through a quarterly newsletter; a Web site and publications about AT.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MAINE**

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Lead Agency:	Maine Department of Education, Office of Special Services
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Maine Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange (Maine CITE)

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**State Financing Activities**

Maine is completing a one-year study to determine the feasibility of operating a state financing system that would complement Maine's existing state funded low-interest, revolving loan fund called mPower. The study addresses bulk purchasing as a way to systemically subsidize acquisition of AT devices and services. A second activity broadened the mPower Loan Fund criteria that will allow additional people to qualify for this program.

**Device Reutilization**

Maine currently has an informal network of existing device exchange programs that offer AT devices for sale or loan. The state developed, in collaboration with the five other New England states, a Web-based device exchange service located at the Maine CITE Coordinating Center. This New England-wide program will complement the existing network. Maine convened a work group that is recommending ways to establish and fund a device-refurbishing program.

**Device Loan**

The state supports a short-term device loan program through the Technical Exploration Center at Husson College in Bangor. This center and two satellite sites allow individuals with disabilities to borrow equipment for up to two weeks, with potential renewals. It also helps to support a program located at the University of Maine at Farmington and one at ALLTech located in southern Maine.

**Device Demonstration**

Maine supports a Technical Exploration Center that conducts AT demonstrations and provides information about devices. The state helps to support other programs at ALLTech, the University of Maine at Farmington and Pine Tree Society. The MaineCITE Coordinating Center's Web site will serve as a central point of information about those and other demonstration places in the state that specialize in technology used by people with particular disabilities.

**State Leadership Activities**

Maine uses the statewide distance learning network to deliver training and public awareness to professionals and people with disabilities on various subjects related to AT. Training and public awareness events are conducted in collaboration with public and private organizations that comprise Maine's Assistive Technology Consortia. The Maine CITE Coordinating Center hosts a Web site, develops publications and exhibits low-tech devices at statewide conferences and senior expos to inform the public about AT.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MARYLAND**

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Lead Agency:	Maryland Department of Disabilities
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

Maryland operates five projects that help people with disabilities obtain AT. It provides low-interest loans through its AT Guaranteed Loan Program and Telework/Self-Employment Loan Program. It supports a private AT cooperative that provides discounts on AT products through a buying cooperative. It helps provide free or low-cost wheelchair ramps through a construction project, and communication devices and evaluations to nursing home residents moving into the community.

### **Device Reutilization**

Maryland will recycle durable medical equipment and provide it to Medicaid recipients and other individuals with disabilities who have low incomes and are uninsured or underinsured. Maryland has launched an equipment exchange program to provide online classified ads for those who want to buy, sell, donate, borrow or acquire donations of AT.

### **Device Loan**

Maryland lends AT devices through a network of five regional lending centers. Items for loan include augmentative communication devices, electronic enlarging systems, computer access devices, electronic note takers and much more.

### **Device Demonstration**

Five AT demonstration sites are located throughout the state to allow for individuals with disabilities to receive information and try out a variety of AT that may meet their needs. A sixth regional demonstration site to be operated by the Easter Seal Society is scheduled to begin operation with support from MD TAP in early 2008, while the National Federation of the Blind is partnering with MD TAP to provide device demonstrations through its Baltimore-based nonvisual access technology center. Additional demonstrations are provided off-site when individuals are unable to travel to a demonstration center and for group presentations.

### **State Leadership Activities**

MD TAP provides workshops on a variety of topics relevant to AT, including working with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to jointly provide training for recipients of adapted telephones and telecommunication devices. It provides technical assistance for implementation of the state's information technology nonvisual access policy, evaluates state agency Web sites for accessibility and collaborates with the State Department of Education to evaluate and promote broadscale deployment of text readers, MD TAP brokers' agreements between DORS and local school systems to provide seamless access to AT devices and services to students throughout the transition from high school to work or college, and is creating an action plan to ensure effective access to instructional materials for college students with print disabilities. Public awareness

activities include a toll-free information and referral service; a Web site; a quarterly newsletter; resource fairs and conferences; and training materials and publications on AT.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MASSACHUSETTS**

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Lead Agency: Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Community Services  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Maximizing Assistive Technology in Consumer's Hands  
(MassMATCH)

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**State Financing Activities**

Massachusetts' will support the Home Modification Loan Program, a state-funded revolving loan fund that provides financial loans up to \$25,000 for home modifications through seven regional housing agencies and the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation. It also has an Alternative Financing Program that provides lower interest loans and guarantees for loans for people purchasing AT. Massachusetts partners with Easter Seals of Massachusetts and Sovereign Bank to provide these loans. Massachusetts is still exploring offering mini-loans for borrowers to purchase AT devices under \$500 and thus expand the use of AT by those who need access to low-cost, low technology devices.

**Device Reutilization**

Massachusetts joined with the other New England states to develop the AT Exchange in New England, which provides an online catalog of used AT for sale or donation. AT that is needed also can be posted. The AT Exchange opened in January 2007.

**Device Loan**

Massachusetts released a Request for Response for the funding of two regionally based AT Device Loan and Device Demonstration programs in July 2006. The contracts were issued in September 2006 to Easter Seals MA and UCP of Berkshire County for the development of these programs. After six months of planning, the device loan program will be opened April 9, 2007.

**Device Demonstration**

The device loan and device demonstration centers were bid as a single entity. The two regional centers will be staffed with expert AT specialists to provide equipment demonstrations on a variety of AT devices. For telecommunication access, regional centers will coordinate with the Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program operated by Verizon.

**State Leadership Activities**

For FY 2006–FY 2008, Massachusetts will host two regional AT Expositions each year to increase public awareness. The NE AT Expo will be held in May 2007 for the northeastern part of the state and the Western MA AT Expo will be held in June 2007. It also will host an Internet-based listserv that will serve as a virtual community for AT consumers, providers, advocates, educators and others in which they will be able to share information, ask questions, provide comments or engage in discussions related to AT. The listserv will become available in March 2007.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MICHIGAN**

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Lead Agency:	Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG), Michigan Rehabilitation Services
Implementing Entity:	Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC)
Program Title:	Michigan Assistive Technology Project

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### **State Financing Activities**

This program has been transferred to United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Michigan, which is operating the Michigan AT Loan Fund to provide low-interest loans to people with disabilities so they can purchase AT. The Michigan Telework Loan Fund, which provides loans for the purchase of equipment for people with disabilities to work at home or operate home businesses, also was transferred to UCP Michigan.

### **Device Reutilization**

Michigan will administer the AT Xchange (ATX) for individuals with an AT device wishing to either sell or give it away. The ATX is a Web site ad service that connects buyers and sellers of devices. In addition, Michigan will link to a national eBay type auction site specifically designed for AT devices, thus providing expanded options for individuals who are interested in buying or selling devices.

### **Device Demonstration**

Michigan has several independent AT device demonstration centers. Over the next three years, Michigan will increase the number of people reached through demonstrations of AT in the state through the support of local device demonstrations in underserved regions.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Michigan's program will develop a system to subcontract with consumer-directed local groups and organizations to provide technical assistance statewide. The program participates in the state's Youth Leadership Forum, which concentrates on supporting youth activities that promote access to AT and provide training on AT issues. Michigan is also part of the e-learnability community and supplies resources and training modules to this community. The program will provide an e-mail based newsletter published 10 times a year on Michigan AT activities; coordination and collaboration on statewide issues; and a Web site. In partnership with local groups, Michigan also will provide a toll-free information and referral service, information through presentations at conferences and collaboration on publications and training materials about AT.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MINNESOTA**

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Lead Agency: Minnesota Department of Administration  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Minnesota System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR) Program

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### **State Financing Activities**

STAR does not directly support a state financing activity. Minnesota has an alternative financing program operated by the community-based organization Assistive Technology Minnesota (ATMn\*), which is comprehensive and operating statewide.

### **Device Reutilization**

STAR will establish a collaborative network of existing device reutilization programs at other agencies and organizations. The first statewide Reuse Conference will be held July 24, 2007. STAR has established a Web-based equipment exchange to assist those who want to buy and sell used AT devices.

### **Device Loan**

STAR will expand its device loan program by forming a collaborative with seven established device loan programs throughout the state that provide an array of services enabling persons with disabilities access to appropriate AT that advances their individual interests and goals.

### **Device Demonstration**

STAR has a number of devices that it demonstrates at conferences, public information fairs, workshops, public libraries, senior centers, museums and shopping malls. STAR will expand the device demonstration program through its collaboration with the seven established device loan programs throughout the state.

### **State Leadership Activities**

STAR provides information and referral to professionals and consumers. STAR publishes a quarterly newsletter, hosts a Web site and maintains listservs to share AT information. STAR also publishes its *Directory of Funding Resources for AT in Minnesota* that is updated every two years. STAR is a member of the state Department of Education AT Leadership Team that plans statewide professional development activities. STAR provides AT training and technical assistance for state employees, AT professionals, employers and consumers. STAR sponsors and collaborates in transition events for both students and adults.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MISSISSIPPI**

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Lead Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Project START (Success Through Assistive Rehabilitation Technology)

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**State Financing Activities**

Mississippi is a state with one of the highest rates of poverty that increased in 2000–04 from 18.2 to 21.6 percent. Given the high poverty rate and the devastation brought on by Hurricane Katrina, Project START is invoking state flexibility and, therefore, will not be providing state financing activities at this time. Options for state financing activities will continue to be explored. Project START will continue to provide consumers with information and referrals and individual assistance for funding while exploring other state financing activities.

**Device Reutilization**

Project START operates an equipment exchange program and a computer-recycling program. The equipment exchange program will allow individuals to buy and sell used AT through want ads. Used equipment will be listed on the program's Web site and published in a quarterly newsletter. Under the computer recycling program, computers will be repaired, refurbished and made available on a first come, first serve basis. Computers are preloaded with operating and basic software. Computer systems are typically available within three to six months.

**Device Loan**

Project START partners with other state agencies through a memorandum of agreement to provide short-term device loans. Project staff provides specialized AT expertise in exchange for the partners managing the day-to-day operation of the program. Applications for loans are accepted from individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates or service providers.

**Device Demonstration**

Demonstration centers will be operated in various locations throughout the state through partnerships with the state Department of Education, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center and Central Mississippi Medical Center. Individuals and service providers interested in a demonstration will be able to visit one of the centers or make a reservation to ensure that the staff and devices of interest are available for demonstration.

**State Leadership Activities**

Project START will develop a number of training modules targeted for specific audiences and on specific topics. Customized training will be available to organizations upon request. Project START also will sponsor a statewide AT conference and provide technical assistance to state agencies on creating accessible Web sites. Additionally, Project START will provide information and referral via the toll-free INFO-Line (1-800-852-8328), a quarterly newsletter, a Web site and a variety of publications on AT. These services will be available free of charge to anyone within the state.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MISSOURI

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Lead Agency:	Missouri Assistive Technology Council, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

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### State Financing Activities

Missouri will implement three state financing activities. Show-Me Loans is a revolving financial loan program that allows people with disabilities to borrow money at low-interest rates for the purchase of AT. The Kids Assistive Technology program provides last-resort funding<sup>12</sup> for AT and housing modifications for persons under 21. The AT Reimbursement Program assists schools in covering the costs of AT that students need as required by their Individual Education Plan using supplemental *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* funding.

### Device Reutilization

MoAT will contract Pan Educational Institute to provide a statewide computer-recycling program that will refurbish computer systems. MoAT also will contract with four centers for independent living to provide recycled durable medical equipment and daily living aids, to make them available to individuals at greatly reduced prices. Braille equipment will be repaired or recycled through a contract with Missouri State University. In addition, MoAT will provide a statewide equipment exchange program, Swap 'N Shop, via the project's Web site.

### Device Loan

MoAT will provide short-term device loans through the Equipment Technology Consortium (ETC) housed at Rockhurst University and staffed by MoAT personnel and university graduate students. ETC has over 1,000 AT devices in the loan pool, including a full range of high-end augmentative communication devices, computer input and output adaptations and such equipment as electronic enlarging for individuals with vision disabilities. Schools and other entities are able to borrow devices to conduct device trials, to fill the gap when their devices are in for repair or for other short-term purposes.

### Device Demonstration

MoAT will deliver device demonstrations through contracts with five centers for independent living (CILs) and a university. Each center has a variety of cross-disability AT available for demonstration and has staff expertise in AT aligned with their equipment pool. All of these CILs also serve as demonstration centers for the adaptive telecommunications equipment distribution program administered by MoAT.

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<sup>12</sup> *Last-resort funding* means that when no other resources, public or private, will pay for the assistive technology device or service, an individual with a disability may qualify for a program of last resort.

### **State Leadership Activities**

MoAT hosts an annual statewide AT conference, Power Up, which provides comprehensive AT topical training for consumers and providers. MoAT will develop and disseminate print materials, provide statewide information and referral services and deliver technical assistance as needed. Policy improvement initiatives are identified and discussed at each state AT council meeting, and new activities are undertaken as necessary and feasible.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MONTANA**

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Lead Agency:	Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services, Disability Services Division
Implementing Entity:	University of Montana Rural Institute, Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research, and Service
Program Title:	Montana Assistive Technology Program (MATP)

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**State Financing Activities**

Montana operates a statewide low-interest financial loan program that guarantees loans made by the Community Bank-Missoula, Inc., to people with disabilities who wish to purchase AT.

**Device Reutilization**

MATP has established a Web-based equipment exchange program to connect buyers and sellers of used AT. MATP also provides in-kind support for the operation of the Montana Adaptive Equipment Program, which refurbishes and recycles equipment for permanent placement and provides long-term loans of equipment for eligible clients served by the Montana Developmental Disabilities Division.

**Device Loan**

MATP operates a short-term equipment loan bank. The inventory consists of approximately 1,000 AT devices and computer hardware-software products that are available for a 30-day loan. MATP has developed a Web-based system that allows online browsing of the inventory as well as the ability to create and manage an account and check out items. Equipment also can be borrowed by contacting the program through their toll-free number, by e-mail or by visiting the facility. This system also provides an infrastructure that can be used by other Montana programs that wish to operate an equipment loan program.

**Device Demonstration**

MATP uses the established MonTECH program's demonstration site at the University of Montana Rural Institute in Missoula. The center includes a number of display areas organized around specific applications. MATP will utilize distance technologies to provide device demonstrations in the underserved locations of the state. MATP also has placed demonstration equipment with the Parents Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) center in southeast Montana. MATP also will contract with other professionals to provide remote demonstration services in order to extend its device demonstration capabilities.

**State Leadership Activities**

MATP operates an information and referral network, distributes materials about AT to key stakeholder groups and participates in local and statewide events to promote awareness. MATP published an annual report in addition to its annual data collection. MATP collaborates with agencies and service providers including tribal organizations to provide needed AT training in the areas of education, employment, community living and information technology.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEBRASKA**

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Lead Agency: Nebraska Department of Education  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)

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**State Financing Activities**

Nebraska's ATP will work with funding sources in the state to provide program administration and support to help consumers find and acquire AT. Nebraska ATP will work with its departments of health and human services, vocational rehabilitation, veteran affairs, education and the state's housing developers association to create a one-stop for AT Financing. It will coordinate the financing of these different funding streams so that the AT services consumers receive are appropriate and cost effective. ATP also will partner with the Easter Seals Loan Program, an alternative financing program that works with the First National Bank of Omaha to provide low- or reduced-interest loans to citizens for the purchase of AT devices and services. Easter Seals also will operate a second loan program for the ATP, the Nebraska Telework Loan Program that provides loans to people with disabilities to purchase equipment to telework from home and other remote sites.

**Device Reutilization**

ATP will operate AT4ALL, a Web-based listing of used AT equipment for sale or free. AT4ALL creates a marketplace for equipment that is often free or low cost and provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to find more affordable equipment.

**Device Loan**

ATP will operate a device loan program, primarily consisting of education and employment AT devices. Over the next three years, the loan device inventory will be expanded to include additional equipment for independent living and community interaction. A Web-based tracking system, AT4ALL, will be used to track devices loaned.

**Device Demonstration**

Device demonstrations will occur at ATP offices, the state's One-Stop Resource Centers and via mobile demonstrations at individual worksites, schools and homes. Technology specialists, experienced in operation of the devices, will be available to assist individuals trying out the equipment. During the next three years, the inventory of devices available to demonstrate will be expanded.

**State Leadership Activities**

Coordination and collaboration efforts will focus on policies related to expanding services for individuals with traumatic brain injury and those with developmental disabilities. During the next three years, ATP also will take the lead on increasing the use of a visitability design standard for publicly funded housing in Nebraska.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEVADA**

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Lead Agency:	Nevada Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Disability Services
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Nevada AT Collaborative (NATC)

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**State Financing Activities**

Nevada offers a statewide financial loan program, the Assistive Technology Loan Fund, to help people with disabilities purchase AT devices. The loan program is a partnership between NATC, CARE Chest, a nonprofit agency, and the Nevada State Bank. The loans are offered at lower interest rates and often for more years than a typical bank loan—thus making the loans more affordable. NATC also offers a statewide AT purchasing program for independent living, the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program (AT/IL), to assist a person to live more independently with their disability. This program provides devices that are not offered through other funding sources like Medicaid, private insurance, vocational rehabilitation or special education.

**Device Reutilization**

NATC operates an extensive equipment recycling program in the northern part of the state through CARE Chest. Donated equipment is tested, repaired and sanitized before being offered for use. In the next three years, NATC will partner with a local nonprofit agency in the southern part of the state to launch an equipment recycling program there. The reuse programs are funded almost exclusively with private foundation and corporate contributions. In addition, NATC will partner in a national Internet auction Web site where users can find specific AT devices at reasonable prices.

**Device Loan**

NATC plans to offer a program that facilitates device loans between AT companies and people with disabilities who are seeking equipment on a trial basis. This device loan program is in its initial planning stages.

**Device Demonstration**

NATC has established an AT center with Easter Seals of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas to provide AT demonstrations. The AT/IL center also provides device demonstrations at its center and at remote sites. Web-based device demonstrations also will be offered.

**State Leadership Activities**

NATC has partnered with the University of Nevada to provide workshops and presentations to increase individual awareness of AT and to provide formal continuing education and graduate courses on AT for professionals. NATC will provide technical assistance to the Nevada Office of Disability Services to ensure that AT resources are available and maximized.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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Lead Agency: University of New Hampshire, Institute on Disability  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Assistive Technology in New Hampshire (ATinNH)

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### **State Financing Activities**

New Hampshire is claiming comparability.<sup>13</sup>

### **Device Reutilization**

ATinNH will continue to support the Refurbished Equipment Marketplace (REM) through ATECH Services. REM takes in donated used equipment, refurbishes it and makes the devices available for resale at a fraction of the cost of new equipment. ATinNH also will operate an online classified section on its Web site at which AT devices can be listed for sale, trade or loan. ATinNH is collaborating with the five other New England states to operate getATstuff.com, an online AT exchange service.

### **Device Loan**

ATinNH also will provide a device loan program through ATECH Services. Currently, ATECH Services operates a limited device loan program throughout the state and will expand the number and type of devices available over the next three years to encompass a greater inventory of devices. ATinNH will expand the number of partners providing AT loans to achieve better statewide access to the service.

### **Device Demonstration**

ATinNH will continue its subcontract with ATECH Services to operate its Technology Exploration Center and the demonstration center at the REM. Also during the first year, ATECH Services will use a van to travel throughout the state to demonstrate AT equipment. The mobile unit van can be loaded with devices for clinics and demonstration days. ATinNH will add new partners to expand statewide access to device demonstrations.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ATinNH will develop a statewide AT Training Group to provide training and technical assistance. It will be composed of AT trainers throughout the state with expertise in public awareness training and professional development. ATinNH will collaborate with the University of New Hampshire to develop a certificate program to prepare individuals who wish to specialize in AT in education, occupational therapy, rehabilitation counseling, speech and language pathology and nursing.

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<sup>13</sup> Sec. 4(e)(1)(B) of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended, allows states not to fund a state-level activity if that activity is supported comparably with nonfederal funds.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW JERSEY**

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Lead Agency:	New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Implementing Entity:	New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc.
Program Title:	Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC)

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**State Financing Activities**

New Jersey's statewide AT program will not directly support state financing activities because comparable financing programs already exist in the state. PNC Bank offers a Self-Reliant Loan and Grant program in conjunction with New Jersey Citizen Action. This loan program provides loans for any type of accessibility or AT device to individuals with disabilities.

**Device Reutilization**

ATAC will operate the Back-in-Action Equipment Exchange Program, which matches individuals selling or donating a device with those in need of such a device. It will be available statewide through a toll-free telephone number; it also will be available on the ATAC Web site and through a print catalogue.

**Device Loan**

Currently, no comprehensive, statewide device loan program exists in the state. ATAC will work to establish a network of device loan services by serving as the central clearinghouse for information regarding these services and by providing marketing and outreach on how to access the device loan services.

**Device Demonstration**

At its headquarters, ATAC provides demonstrations of a range of devices from low-tech devices to aid-in-home devices to modified toys. There also are other agencies that have device demo centers for specific types of devices. ATAC will establish a network of the existing demonstration centers with the goal of becoming a comprehensive statewide system. ATAC will serve as the clearinghouse for information about the centers and will conduct public awareness activities to market the network.

**State Leadership Activities**

ATAC will provide AT training to students, parents and educators in addition to assistance on home accessibility and modifications at events, such as the Abilities Expo. ATAC also will provide technical assistance to webmasters who are located in the state Office of Information Technology regarding Web accessibility who in turn can provide technical assistance to webmasters in other state departments. ATAC will author bulletins on a variety of AT topics distributed through mail and on its accessible Web site; provide a statewide toll-free information and referral service; and disseminate approximately 10,000 print brochures, flyers and publications about AT each year.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW MEXICO**

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Lead Agency:	New Mexico Public Education Department, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)

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**State Financing Activities**

NMTAP will conduct three state financing activities: (1) the NMTAP Financial Loan Program, (2) an Access to Telework Loan Program and (3) development of a Last Resort Fund. The Financial Loan Program will provide guaranteed loans to individuals with disabilities for the purchase of AT in partnership with the New Mexico State Treasurers Office and First Community Bank. The Telework Loan Program will guarantee loans with the First Community Bank to purchase computers and other equipment for use in telework only. The Last Resort Fund will be used to purchase AT devices for individuals who have no other funding options. The fund will be capitalized through contributions from charitable foundations and private donors.

**Device Reutilization**

NMTAP operates a device recycling and repair program that allows individuals to receive free donated used equipment that is refurbished directly by NMTAP or through contracts with vendors. NMTAP also operates a device exchange program that allows people to find used items through ad listings available on the program's Web site and published in the quarterly newsletter.

**Device Loan**

NMTAP continues to provide the Assistive Bank of Loan-able Equipment (ABLE). Devices in the loan inventory include alternative communication devices and switches, alternative keyboards, voice recognition software, laptop and desktop computers and other devices. Also, the New Mexico Commission for the Blind and New Mexico Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provide specialty devices for loan.

**Device Demonstration**

NMTAP is planning to operate three device demonstration centers around the state. Individuals can schedule appointments with staff to attend a demonstration. Additional sites may be added over the next three years to more fully cover those areas of the state that could benefit the most, namely the southern and eastern parts of the state. NMTAP plans to also offer a mobile demonstration program to reach the various rural areas around the state.

**State Leadership Activities**

NMTAP conducts an annual AT conference called Tech Fair that provides a host of training sessions for a variety of audiences. NMTAP will collaborate with the New Mexico Public Education Department and the Children Youth and Families Department as they develop a statewide prekindergarten program to ensure identified children receive the AT that they need. NMTAP will provide a toll-free information and referral service, a Web site, a quarterly newsletter, announcements and publications on AT.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW YORK**

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Lead Agency:	Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID)

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**State Financing Activities**

TRAID will support two loan programs. The Equipment Loan Fund, operated by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, is a revolving loan fund that provides loans to purchase or replace any type of essential equipment or device. In addition, New York has an Access to Telework Loan Program that provides loans to individuals with disabilities who wish to purchase equipment to work from home.

**Device Reutilization**

At the state level, TRAID will operate an equipment exchange program that helps individuals sell and buy AT devices through a want ad service on the program's Web site. Twelve regional centers also will operate equipment reutilization programs. The centers will receive donated AT devices, clean and make any necessary repairs and then identify individuals who are in need of the device through a network of agencies and consumers in their region.

**Device Loan**

TRAID's 12 regional centers will operate equipment loan centers that provide equipment free of charge to all citizens in the state. Equipment can be loaned for a period of one month, with an option to extend for an additional month. In addition, through a collaborative agreement with the Department of Health Early Intervention Program, the regional centers will operate equipment loan programs for children from birth to age 3.

**Device Demonstration**

All 12 regional centers will provide device demonstrations. Consumers can walk in or make an appointment to meet with center staff for a demonstration. Demonstrations also will be provided at statewide conferences, during special demonstration vendor fairs in rural areas and at the state's One-Stop Career Centers.

**State Leadership Activities**

TRAID will coordinate the interagency partnership on AT that is composed of state agencies, not-for-profit organizations and consumers who work to increase awareness of AT devices and services. TRAID will participate in other interagency activities with entities such as the state Education Department and the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to ensure that AT is infused in new and existing policies. Through a subcontract with Cornell University's Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center, TRAID will offer information and technical assistance on information technology accessibility to education entities (i.e., schools). The 12 regional TRAID centers will provide localized outreach and public awareness. TRAID also will

provide a statewide toll-free information and referral service, Web site, statewide AT conference and publications on AT.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NORTH CAROLINA**

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Lead Agency:	NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

North Carolina will not use funds to support state financing activities.

### **Device Reutilization**

NCATP will offer device reutilization through the Technology Exchange Post, which is a used equipment database to assist people with disabilities in obtaining used equipment at lower cost. The Exchange Post is similar to a want ad in that individuals list items they wish to sell. The North Carolina Technology Exchange Post will be expanded to provide a new, improved searchable Web site.

### **Device Loan**

AT devices will be loaned through nine AT centers and 13 satellite locations across the state. NCATP has an extensive inventory of devices that can be borrowed for a two-week period, and the loan time can be extended if no one else is waiting. Satellite centers include centers for independent living, vocational rehabilitation centers, regional resource centers for the deaf and hard of hearing, Easter Seals UCP, community colleges and private physical rehabilitation centers.

### **Device Demonstration**

NCATP will run its device demonstration program through the nine AT centers and 13 satellite locations across the state. Device demonstrations will be provided either on-site in an AT center or NCATP staff will go off-site to the individual's home, school, work site or other community location upon request.

### **State Leadership Activities**

NCATP cosponsors an annual two-day AT expo that offers an array of concurrent AT training sessions for people with disabilities, their families and professionals. NCATP collaborates with the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services to include AT in its state plan and with the North Carolina Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse in the expansion of augmentative communication services in the comprehensive Medicaid waiver for people with mental retardation or developmental disabilities. New collaboration has been established with the North Carolina Division of Services to the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing to provide training on telephone use with devices for people with communication impairments. Public awareness and information and referral will be provided through a statewide toll-free number, NCATP's Web site, publications about AT, presentations at JobLink Career Centers and public schools, local community programs and conferences.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NORTH DAKOTA**

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Lead Agency: North Dakota Department of Human Services  
Implementing Entity: North Dakota Association for the Disabled  
Program Title: North Dakota Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)

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### **State Financing Activities**

The North Dakota Association for the Disabled, N.D. Protection and Advocacy and the Alerus Financial Institution will partner to make financial loans available for AT devices and services to all eligible state residents. Loans range from \$500–\$50,000. The loan program offers lower interest rates and extended payment terms.

### **Device Reutilization**

IPAT will administer the AT Swap & Shop, a program that allows individuals to buy, sell, swap or give away used AT equipment through an online bulletin board. Over the next three years, IPAT will seek to increase the listing of devices and extensively market the program to increase awareness of the service.

### **Device Loan**

IPAT will operate a statewide short-term AT equipment loan program, the Equipment Loan Library (ELL). The ELL will be available to state residents of all ages with disabilities and those family members and professionals that work with them. Devices are shipped to the borrower for a six-week loan period. A small rental fee and shipping costs are charged for equipment borrowed from the ELL. IPAT will use a sliding fee schedule for the rental of ELL equipment for individuals with disabilities not covered by an agency. The equipment loan program is available via a toll-free number and via the program Web site.

### **Device Demonstration**

IPA will administer and operate two comprehensive device demonstration centers: the Technology Access Center in Fargo and the Technology Access Center in Bismarck. These demonstration programs will provide an opportunity for people to explore a number of AT devices, either on their own or using the expertise of IPAT staff. These centers have videoconferencing capabilities so demonstrations can be done via videoconference.

### **State Leadership Activities**

AT training will be provided to individuals with disabilities, their family members and the professionals that support them. IPAT will engage in direct consumer assistance activities that include identifying AT device options for individuals, providing implementation strategies for agencies and troubleshooting specific AT equipment. Assistance is made available via phone, online, mail, videoconferencing or person-to-person. Public awareness and information and referral activities include a toll-free information and referral line, free bimonthly newsletter, accessible Web site and information talks on AT statewide. IPAT staff is available to serve on task forces and work groups addressing AT issues. IPAT collaborates in the activities of public and private entities located throughout the state that share a common responsibility for the provision of AT devices and services.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: OHIO**

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Lead Agency:	The Ohio State University Research Foundation and Industrial, Department of Industrial, Welding & Systems Engineering (OSURF IWSE)
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Assistive Technology of Ohio (AT Ohio)

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**State Financing Activities**

AT Ohio will provide loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services through the Assistive Technology Low Interest Loan Program in cooperation with Fifth Third Bank. AT Ohio also acts as a contact point and promotes the State of Ohio Treasury Office's Access for Individuals Program. Fifth Third Bank reviews loans for both programs, which streamlines the application process. The low-cost, flexible loans are affordable for persons with fixed or limited incomes.

**Device Reutilization**

AT Ohio will directly administer the Computer Recycle and Redistribution Program (CRRP), which refurbishes donated computers for people with disabilities. In addition, AT Ohio also is establishing an Equipment Exchange Program for use by individuals and organizations with device needs. Ohioans from across the state can sell or donate AT on a dedicated Web page that will be maintained by AT Ohio.

**Device Loan**

AT Ohio will expand its network of adaptive toy lending programs to include additional devices. It will work with public libraries in implementing the device loan programs so more Ohioans with disabilities can be served.

**Device Demonstration**

AT Ohio will develop a new device demonstration program with statewide capacity and plans to purchase a minivan or minibus to be converted into a portable demonstration vehicle. Both the vehicle and trailer will be modified to demonstrate the various ways AT can adapt everyday items to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

**State Leadership Activities**

AT Ohio engages in a number of training and technical assistance activities, such as conducting a series of statewide AT Education Days for human service professionals and working in partnership with Goodwill to provide training at the Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center. AT Ohio will use a multifaceted approach (mailings, Internet, exhibits, displays, presentations and training) to increase awareness about the benefits of AT devices and services. Additionally, the toll-free information and referral service, Web site, quarterly newsletter and disability-related events sponsored by AT Ohio enhance public awareness of AT for persons with disabilities throughout the state of Ohio.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: OKLAHOMA**

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Lead Agency: Oklahoma State University, Seretean Wellness Center  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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### **State Financing Activities**

Oklahoma ABLE Tech partners with the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) and BancFirst to provide a statewide alternative financing program (AFP) and an Access to Telework Fund (ATF) program to Oklahomans with disabilities. The AFP and ATF both offer an interest rate buy-down or loan guarantee, or both, so individuals have the opportunity to acquire needed AT by borrowing money to purchase their own devices and equipment or modification.

### **Device Reutilization**

ABLE Tech operates the AT Equipment Exchange, a want ad that functions as an AT exchange program. ABLE Tech also partners with Sooner AMBUCS, a nonprofit organization, which operates Share4Life Komputer (ASK), a community service program, to recycle and repair computers.

### **Device Loan**

ABLE Tech operates the statewide Assistive Technology Equipment Loan (ATEL) Program and also offers short-term loan programs, via memorandums of agreement, with six partners: Department of Rehabilitation Services, Visual Services Division; the University of Tulsa; the Hearing Loss Association of Oklahoma; the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center; the Oklahoma League for the Blind; and Total Source for Hearing-loss and Access. Additionally, Oklahoma ABLE Tech enhances collaboration with disability-related organizations and agencies that currently operate a durable medical equipment loan program.

### **Device Demonstration**

ABLE Tech operates an AT device demonstration center and through memorandums of agreement partners with five other entities to operate demonstration centers. The devices are available at all six locations and staff from each center has opportunities to demonstrate AT for specialized training classes, public awareness events and at statewide workshops and conferences.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ABLE Tech provides training for education, employment, community living and information technology and telecommunication professionals along with persons with disabilities and their family members. The ABLE Tech INFO-line provides a toll-free information and referral service and a newsletter available in print and on the ABLE Tech Web site, which features in-depth information and an opportunity to provide feedback. All publication materials that cover AT are provided free of charge on the Web site and are available in alternative format.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: OREGON**

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Lead Agency:	Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD)
Implementing Entity:	Access Technologies, Inc. (ATI)
Program Title:	Not applicable

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**State Financing Activities**

ATI operates a reselling and cooperative buying program to improve access to and funding for AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities. Bulk purchasing reduces the cost of many items, allowing ATI to pass the savings on to consumers.

**Device Reutilization**

The Used Equipment Marketplace (UEM) will provide a want ads outlet for recycling AT devices and durable medical equipment. For a small processing fee, individuals and agencies can advertise AT devices for sale, trade or donation. Anyone in the state of Oregon will be able to buy or sell an AT device through the UEM, which publishes a monthly newsletter in addition to updating a list of available devices on ATI's Web site.

**Device Loan**

For a nominal fee, ATI offers short-term loans of a wide variety of AT devices and software to targeted individuals. The device loan program is currently supported by small local grants and minimal fees generated from charges to cover shipping and handling expenses. ATI will approach and develop collaboration with public or private entities to enhance the provision of short-term loans of AT devices throughout the state.

**Device Demonstration**

ATI currently operates two device demonstration centers, one in Salem and another in Portland, to assist individuals with disabilities to make informed choices about AT devices and services. The program also travels statewide to demonstrate devices at a variety of venues, such as trade shows and conferences. ATI plans to collaborate with partners to establish additional centers and is exploring the concept of a virtual device demonstration center to reach the remote areas of Oregon.

**State Leadership Activities**

ATI will develop training modules for specific audiences and will provide technology workshops and training on AT to human resource managers. Technical assistance will comprise a multitude of activities, such as assisting independent living centers and the state's One-Stop Career Centers in identifying AT needs. Additionally, ATI provides a toll-free information and referral service, Web site, publications about AT and a monthly newsletter.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: PENNSYLVANIA**

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Lead Agency:	Institute on Disabilities at Temple University
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)

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### **State Financing Activities**

PIAT administers a system of distributing adapted telecommunications devices through Pennsylvania's Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (TDDP). This program provides free telecommunications devices for eligible individuals who have disabilities that interfere with their ability to independently use the telephone. The devices include TTYs, amplified phones, hands-free headsets and more.

### **Device Reutilization**

PIAT will develop an online version of the Recycled and Exchanged Equipment Partnership (REEP) Classifieds, including the capability for prospective buyers to search the listings of neighboring states. Support is provided to the Into New Hands, Liberty Wheels and Widow's Mite programs that refurbish devices. Enhanced funding to three of PIAT's Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) in central Pennsylvania will increase availability of refurbished equipment in that region. PIAT participates in atmatch.com, an online auction service for AT.

### **Device Loan**

PIAT will operate Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library, a consumer-responsive, statewide program that provides short-term (generally for periods up to eight weeks) loans of AT devices that enable individuals with disabilities to make informed decisions about the appropriateness of an AT device in their "real-life" settings.

### **Device Demonstration**

PIAT's eight subcontracted ATRCs, plus its central office in Philadelphia, provide the infrastructure of the statewide system for device demonstrations as well as other functions. The ATRCs are staffed with knowledgeable professionals that provide equipment demonstrations both onsite and off-site to meet consumer needs. In addition to "demonstrations by demand" available through each ATRC, PIAT has two funded demonstration centers (Pittsburgh and Camp Hill) and several affiliate demonstration partners in the Philadelphia area.

### **State Leadership Activities**

PIAT will use a variety of strategies to deliver training, including participation in statewide conferences, university-based lectures and "train-the-trainer" events. Technical assistance will be available to agencies and organizations who are developing or improving programs and policies to improve access to AT. PIAT will maintain a toll-free information and referral service; distribute print materials (e.g., fact sheets, quarterly newsletter) to consumers, families, providers and educators; and regularly update its dynamic, accessible Web site. PIAT will collaborate with Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy and the Pennsylvania AT Foundation to coordinate

activities under the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended, as well as with other disability-related agencies and organizations and relevant governmental offices.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: RHODE ISLAND**

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Lead Agency:	Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)

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**State Financing Activities**

The Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) has determined that a one-year feasibility study is necessary prior to the establishment of a state financing system. ORS will conduct meetings with stakeholders—including individuals with disabilities and their families, community-based organizations and other consumer groups—to determine available resources for an alternative financing program or other state financing system.

**Device Reutilization**

ATAP will look to partner with and expand the capacity of the device reutilization program located at the PARI Independent Living Center. Equipment vendors, medical facilities and consumers donate devices to PARI, which repairs an item prior to making it available for sale or at no cost. ATAP will outreach to other organizations to acquire additional equipment for the reutilization program and conduct marketing to ensure increased awareness. ATAP participates in the New England Device Exchange Web site.

**Device Loan**

ATAP operates a device loan program with Rhode Island Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. ATAP also subcontracts with the AT resource center at the East Bay Educational Collaborative and TechACCESS of Rhode Island, a technology-related center. ATAP will establish a network among these existing programs and seek to expand capabilities by outreach to vendors and other community-based organizations.

**Device Demonstration**

ATAP operates a statewide device demonstration program to individuals with disabilities at no cost through subcontracts with TechACCESS of Rhode Island and East Bay Educational Collaborative. The adaptive computer lab at the ATAP AT Resource Center also hosts weekly software training sessions available to students and educators in small groups or by individual appointment. The program will review the current inventory of devices and explore expanding current resources for demonstration of equipment for education, employment, telecommunications and community living.

**State Leadership Activities**

ATAP provides ongoing training and technical assistance on AT devices and services to staff of vocational rehabilitation programs, such as the state's One-Stop Career Centers. Community-based organizations will subcontract with ATAP to conduct statewide Individualized Education Program training activities related to AT. ATAP will expand the ATAP Information and Referral Center as a statewide resource designed to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: SOUTH CAROLINA**

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Lead Agency:	University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) administers an AT financial loan program in partnership with South Carolina State Credit Union. The director of SCATP serves on the Financial Loan Review Panel, and SCATP collaborates with vocational rehabilitation in promoting the program.

### **Device Reutilization**

SCATP provides an online recycling database, the South Carolina Assistive Technology Exchange, to help citizens with disabilities and older people with functional limitations find affordable AT devices and equipment. Those with devices they no longer need or vendors with returned or overstocked equipment can list all available devices and connect with the consumers interested in finding these resources.

### **Device Loan**

SCATP offers a short-term device loan program that is available to anyone in the state of South Carolina. The SCATP Device Loan Program increases access to AT by allowing people with disabilities, their family members and service providers to try out different AT options before making the decision to purchase or, in some cases, the decision not to purchase AT. In this way, types and features of different devices can be compared in real-life situations (e.g., in the classroom, at home or work).

### **Device Demonstration**

The SCATP AT Demonstration Center in Columbia offers opportunities for hands-on trial, self-paced learning and AT demonstration, with the most comprehensive inventory of AT items in the state. The center displays devices that range from low tech to high tech, including augmentative and alternative communication equipment; hardware and software for computer and curriculum access; sensory aids; environmental controls; adapted recreation equipment; telecommunications equipment; and aids for daily living.

### **State Leadership Activities**

SCATP staff travels across the state to present exhibits, training and demonstrations. Continuing education sessions are offered on a variety of AT topics during the year and in workshops. Services are more accessible to people in rural settings via a toll-free number. SCATP is involved in helping state agencies implement accessible Web pages. Public awareness activities include SCATP's annual statewide AT Expo, updated fact sheets to promote AT services, Web site articles and one-on-one consultations on AT and related disability needs. SCATP's AT Online Network listserv reaches over 1,600 people throughout the state and provides opportunities for expanding public awareness through information dissemination, networking and outreach.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: SOUTH DAKOTA**

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Lead Agency:	South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services
Implementing Entity:	Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC)
Program Title:	DakotaLink, South Dakota Assistive Technology Project

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### **State Financing Activities**

DakotaLink plans to establish a cooperative buying program among state agencies and public schools as well as to establish an AT device leasing program for individuals who do not qualify for assistance from another funding source.

### **Device Reutilization**

DakotaLink has improved the Web site for the Equipment Connection—an online consumer-driven reutilization project designed to match individuals in need of AT devices with those who desire to offer used equipment for resale or donation—by entering into a regional agreement to join with Nebraska AT4ALL to cooperatively support a shared equipment Web site.

### **Device Loan**

DakotaLink has added significantly to the number of devices individuals may borrow from the Device Loan Program through a collaborative partnership with the State Department of Education that provided \$200,000 in one-time funding for devices related to K–12 education. DakotaLink efforts continue in the development of a statewide and comprehensive system by which individuals with disabilities, family members and practitioners are able to borrow a device and use that device in an appropriate environment to make a qualified decision about AT acquisition. Device loans are also supported through the regional equipment agreement allowing South Dakotan’s easy access to reviewing items for loan in a user-friendly Web-based format.

### **Device Demonstration**

DakotaLink maintains four device demonstration centers where individuals can make an appointment with an AT specialist who will match devices appropriate to needs, provide opportunities to operate the devices and offer additional information and resources. DakotaLink plans to increase capacity by collaborating and partnering with additional entities to offer device demonstrations, such as the nine geographically distributed One-Stop Career Centers, university disability centers and public school systems.

### **State Leadership Activities**

DakotaLink provides training and technical assistance through topic and device specific workshops and team evaluations, as well as at civic and professional meetings, health fairs and consumer meetings. Public awareness activities on the benefits of AT include maintaining an accessible Web site; distributing materials to organizations that serve individuals with disabilities; and providing informational presentations and demonstrations at workshops and conferences across the state.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: TENNESSEE**

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Lead Agency: Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Tennessee Technology Access Program (TTAP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

TTAP has chosen not to conduct any state financing activities as allowed by the state flexibly provisions of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended.

### **Device Reutilization**

TTAP and its contracted technology centers will develop partnerships to increase the reutilization of devices so more individuals and families can obtain free or low-cost AT equipment. The TTAP Reutilization Program will operate statewide through the network of technology centers and a partner organization to refurbish usable devices, thereby maximizing the impact of resources in Tennessee.

### **Device Loan**

The TTAP Device Loan Program will operate statewide through the network of technology centers that enable individuals with disabilities and their family members to try different devices and, therefore, make informed decisions when selecting appropriate AT. To enhance access to the program, TTAP will work in conjunction with the centers to develop an online database of devices available at each center.

### **Device Demonstration**

TTAP and its network of centers will conduct device demonstrations. Parents, professionals and individuals with disabilities will have the opportunity to learn about the benefits and differences between varieties of devices to help them make a choice that suits their AT needs. TTAP will develop a strategy for increased sharing of devices among centers to ensure needed devices are available statewide for demonstrations.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The staff at the technology centers will provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to individuals, families and service providers in many different ways, including the use of “train-the-trainer” models at workshops in rural areas. TTAP and the technology centers will maintain an interconnected network of Web sites in addition to informing people with disabilities about AT through newsletters, a listserv and presentations.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: TEXAS**

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Lead Agency: The University of Texas at Austin  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Texas Technology Access Program (TTAP)

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**State Financing Activities**

Currently, the Texas Technology Access Program is not engaged in any state financing activities. However, the program has conducted a one-year study, which determined the need for state financing activities. The program is now working to secure funding for a low-interest financial loan program to enable consumers to purchase AT.

**Device Reutilization**

Over the next three years, Texas plans to assist Project Mend, Inc., an organization that operates an existing medical equipment reuse program to expand its existing medical equipment reutilization. Texas is partnering with the Assistive Technology for Kansans program as a member of their Internet auction site, atmatch.com, for the exchange and sale of AT devices.

**Device Loan**

TTAP will fill in the gaps not covered by existing device loan programs. The program will work with agencies and organizations that provide device loans to develop a mutual referral system so consumers can be referred to the appropriate agency to meet their equipment needs. TTAP will fill in the gaps by targeting a specific population each year during the next three years.

**Device Demonstration**

A statewide network provides AT device demonstrations. The network consists of 15 demonstration centers, five of which provide a broad range of AT devices. Ten centers provide demonstrations related to computer access.

**State Leadership Activities**

TTAP will collaborate with Knowbility, Inc.—a nonprofit organization that supports the independence of children and adults with disabilities through accessible information technology—to provide training to schools and universities, local and state governments and nonprofits on developing accessible Web sites and distance education. The program will provide technical assistance to libraries statewide about how to make online catalogs, computer workstations and other information accessible. TTAP also will collaborate with United Cerebral Palsy of Texas to provide training on AT through the TTAP demonstration centers. Information brochures on the program's activities and services, a toll-free telephone number and a Web site are available.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: UTAH**

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Lead Agency: Utah State University, Center for Persons with Disabilities  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Utah Assistive Technology Program (UATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

UATP supports two different state financing activities: 1) low-interest loan and loan guarantee programs in conjunction with the Utah Assistive Technology Foundation (UATF) and Zions Bank and 2) an Access to Telework program in coordination with the same partners.

### **Device Reutilization**

UATP assists individuals with disabilities to acquire AT through reutilization efforts in five ways: 1) UATP supports the Arc of Utah in its Connections Through Computers Program; 2) UATP advertises existing device reutilization programs available in Utah; 3) UATP's AT Lab reutilizes and distributes equipment in northern Utah on a limited basis; 4) UATP staff provides administrative support for the statewide reutilization initiative Citizens Reutilizing Assistive Technology Equipment (CREATE); and 5) UATP provides ongoing technical assistance in the areas of equipment maintenance and repair, reutilization program administration and AT device adaptation. UATP advises and monitors the activities of the Access Utah Network and maintains a virtual network of reutilization programs statewide.

### **Device Loan**

The AT Lab at Utah State University serves as the UATP hub for device loan coordination activities. The AT Lab supplements existing programs where service gaps are identified. UATP works with six centers for independent living (CILs) and such organizations as the Utah Center for Assistive Technology and the Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities to maintain a virtual network of device loan programs statewide.

### **Device Demonstration**

UATP continues to support the Utah Center for Assistive Technology in Salt Lake City as a device demonstration center. The AT Lab has taken the lead as the demonstration center for northern Utah. Individuals with disabilities, their family members and service providers visit the lab to learn about a variety of AT solutions. UATP provides technical assistance to AT demonstration centers located in CILs.

### **State Leadership Activities**

UATP organizes at least four AT training academies annually and conducts technical assistance to AT provider programs statewide in an effort to enhance expertise in providing consumer-responsive AT services. UATP provides updated resources for Access Utah Network (a statewide information and referral service), regular press releases, updated Web site information and provider- and consumer-focused publications about AT in a variety of mediums.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: VERMONT**

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Lead Agency:	Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Vermont Assistive Technology Program (VATP)

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**State Financing Activities**

VATP provides loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services through a community-based organization, Opportunities Ventures, and its lending partner, Vermont Opportunities Credit Union (VT-OCU). Loans often are provided to individuals who would not otherwise qualify to receive conventional bank loans. VT-OCU considers unearned income, Medicaid waiver, etc. VATP markets the loan program on its Web site and through other media to improve outreach to underserved communities.

**Device Reutilization**

VATP partners with the five other New England states in a regional Web-based AT exchange called getATstuff.com, which connects people seeking AT with others who have AT that is no longer needed. GetATStuff.com is promoted statewide to disability organizations and other agencies, and a regional marketing plan is being developed. The exchange service is available through public libraries and at the VATP centers.

**Device Loan**

VATP operates a short-term AT device loan program. The program provides loaner devices for up to 30 days to individuals, employers, public agencies and other entities. Devices can be picked up at any of four locations throughout the state and also can be shipped to any location in the state. VATP is expanding its inventory of devices available for loan and is converting from a paper-based system to a computerized database tracking system.

**Device Demonstration**

VATP offers device demonstrations through a network of centers. Centers are located throughout the state, including three VATP office locations. Device demonstrations are also available at twelve offices of the Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, two Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing locations and at the Vermont Parent Information Center. All the sites serve the same functions, and some specialize in particular kinds of AT to ensure a broad selection of AT is available for demonstration.

**State Leadership Activities**

VATP provides training to Vermont's Child Development Associate Program and each year conducts several training events for day care providers. Day care providers are shown how to adapt toys, books and art projects and how to develop communication aids. VATP also collaborates with a multiagency Communication Task Force to provide statewide training to providers serving adults with developmental disabilities. A toll-free information and assistance

service, a Web site, a quarterly newsletter with an AT column and the routine distribution of publications on AT topics help increase public awareness.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: VIRGINIA**

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Lead Agency: Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)

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**State Financing Activities**

VATS will not directly support state financing activities. Virginia has an existing alternative financing program, the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority (ATLFA).

**Device Reutilization**

VATS is facilitating the establishment of recycling programs statewide. VATS provides technical assistance and support in planning and implementation to local planning teams interested in establishing or replicating a device reutilization program. Virginia has seven operating recycling programs in Virginia, and through a grant received from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, is in the process of building new programs where none exist.

**Device Loan**

Due to limited funding, VATS regional sites are doing a modicum of loaning of AT. The regional sites will work with existing loan programs to ensure that those who need to borrow for trial or temporary conditions can acquire what they need. VATS is reassessing its role in loaning of equipment because of the liability involved and are putting greater emphasis on the gifting of equipment through recycling programs.

**Device Demonstration**

VATS regional sites will not operate discrete demonstration programs but will integrate device demonstrations into all of their activities, such as presentations, exhibits, training, workshops, outreach and public awareness activities. Demonstration kits have been developed specifically for various audiences, including educators, employers, children and seniors.

**State Leadership Activities**

VATS will collaborate with several high schools and universities in Virginia and Washington, D.C., to provide preservice training on AT to students in such courses as special education and occupational therapy. VATS also will provide technical assistance to students through such entities as the AT Initiative at George Mason University and the Training and Technical Assistance Centers for Virginia's school systems. The program established an interagency workgroup on aging with representatives from the state's Department of Aging; Area Agencies on Aging; Social Services and Adult Protective Services; and Virginia American Association of Retired Persons to enhance awareness of low-tech solutions that increase independence and safety. VATS will provide a toll-free information and referral service, Web site and publications on AT.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: WASHINGTON**

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Lead Agency:	University of Washington, Center for Technology and Disability Studies
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP)

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**State Financing Activities**

WATAP collaborates with the Washington Assistive Technology Foundation (WATF) to operate the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) and the Access to Telework Loan Program. The AFP offers loans at prime interest rate to prime plus 2 percent with terms ranging from one to five years for the purchase of AT. The Telework Loan Program operates similarly to the AFP with the exception that applicants demonstrate a requested loan is for the purpose of telework.

**Device Reutilization**

WATAP will provide two opportunities for Washington residents with disabilities to obtain a wide range of used AT equipment. It will make available the atmatch.com AT device reutilization auction site that is operated by the Kansas Assistive Technology program. WATAP also supports a statewide computer reutilization program that is operated by Easter Seals of Washington. This program provides used computers free of charge to eligible individuals in the state.

**Device Loan**

WATAP operates an AT Device Loan Program, which provides a variety of AT devices for short-term loan that support the employment, education, community living and information technology needs of individuals with disabilities. WATAP will identify other partners in the state that can loan durable medical equipment to make the program more comprehensive.

**Device Demonstration**

WATAP provides device demonstrations at its demonstration center in Seattle. It also offers hands-on activities and labs at conferences, exhibits and training events. WATAP also has a traveling AT device demonstration lab to reach people throughout the state. WATAP will schedule mini-consultations based on requests in the local communities.

**State Leadership Activities**

WATAP hosts a number of training events. An online augmentative and alternative communication course is offered to speech and language pathologists and a follow-up live course is offered each year. An AT summer institute is offered to increase the skill levels of vocational rehabilitation personnel and educators. It is composed of a comprehensive four-day training that includes hands-on AT device demonstration labs, video clips and interactive case studies designed to increase skill levels. WATAP provides a toll-free information and referral service, Web site, a quarterly bulletin and an AT online discussion forum.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: WEST VIRGINIA**

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Lead Agency: West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Implementing Entity: West Virginia University  
Program Title: West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS)

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### **State Financing Activities**

WVATS has reviewed and studied the existing state financing system, West Virginia's Technology Related Assistance Revolving Loan Fund for Individuals with Disabilities, which is administered by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). WVATS is holding public forums and inviting such stakeholders as loan staff, individuals with disabilities, families and professionals to discuss solutions and enhancement methods for this revolving loan fund. WVATS is partnering with DRS to create and implement a marketing strategy for the fund.

### **Device Reutilization**

WVATS has created a bulletin board for reutilization and exchange of AT. The bulletin board is a part of the virtual loan library of AT devices and is available online for individuals to post devices and look for used devices. In addition, two device reutilization programs already exist in the state through the Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley and the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living.

### **Device Loan**

WVATS is operating a statewide online device loan program. Individuals can request a device by calling a toll-free number or e-mailing the program. Devices are mailed to the person for a short-term loan of up to four weeks; the only cost to the borrower is the cost for returning the device. The virtual loan library contains a photograph and a description of each device as well as the location or locations of each device. WVATS posted the loan library on the WVATS Web page and is linking it to other existing loan libraries.

### **Device Demonstration**

WVATS supports two large demonstration centers in Morgantown and Institute and smaller centers around the state. WVATS also provides specific AT device demonstrations with vendors throughout the state.

### **State Leadership Activities**

WVATS offers technical assistance to state agencies regarding accessibility issues and assists Web developers around the state to increase their knowledge and skills about accessibility to information technology. WVATS has created specialized curricula and offers workshops on AT to diverse audiences of consumers, family members and service providers. WVATS, as an affiliate of the West Virginia 211 referral service, provides training and resources about AT. WVATS cosponsored a statewide transition conference from which transition resources for students, families and counselors were developed.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: WISCONSIN**

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Lead Agency:	Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Disability and Elder Services, Office of Independence and Employment
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	WisTech

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### **State Financing Activities**

Wisconsin is claiming comparability due to the existence of WisLoan, an alternative financing program that is operated by Independence First, a community-based organization.

### **Device Reutilization**

WisTech coordinates existing statewide device reutilization programs. The largest program is the Wheelchair Recycling Program (WRP) that was started to collect used equipment to keep equipment from ending up in landfills and serve those in need instead. WRP serves as a model in the state in terms of its established services of collecting, repair, refurbishment and redistribution of equipment to consumers. The repair and refurbishment activities are performed in collaboration with the Department of Corrections prison industry program.

### **Device Loan**

WisTech operates device loan centers through Wisconsin's centers for independent living (CILs). The centers serve the statewide population to provide a single point of entry and access to loan programs for all residents of the state. There are eight CILs providing these services as part of the WisTech Network of Device Loan and Device Demonstration Centers. A Web-based inventory under development will allow any person in the state to access a list of the equipment available for loan through WisTech.

### **Device Demonstration**

WisTech's device demonstrations are operated through contracts with Wisconsin's centers for independent living. The CILs maintain a standardized equipment inventory that allows consumers to try out devices to address basic disability-related needs for most consumers. In addition, WisTech is collaborating with others to provide device demonstration events in a variety of locations throughout the state.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI) provides technical assistance and works in consultation with WisTech to coordinate training events for the CILs, resource centers, county service departments and rehabilitation professionals, including professionals at disability-specific agencies. Training focuses on increasing general awareness, accessing funding for AT and increasing practitioner skill level and capacity. WisTech is currently working in partnership with SVRI and the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Institute (WATI) to increase the number of individuals with AT professional qualifications through the development and operation of a study group of participants interested in receiving the professional credential.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: WYOMING**

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Lead Agency: Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND), University of Wyoming  
Implementing Entity: Not applicable  
Program Title: Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

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### **State Financing Activities**

WIND, the lead agency, will not directly support state financing activities because there is an existing alternative financing program in the state. Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc., is the community-based organization that runs the loan program and partners with the First Interstate Bank of Laramie.

### **Device Reutilization**

WATR will collaborate with [atmatch.com](http://atmatch.com)<sup>14</sup>, a nationwide, Web-based auction site that allows people with disabilities to acquire or donate AT devices for reutilization. Consumers can search for AT devices for purchase, look for donated items or post AT devices for donation or sale. Because [atmatch.com](http://atmatch.com) is a national site, citizens have more variety and greater availability of AT than they otherwise might through a program operated within Wyoming.

### **Device Loan**

WATR will expand its existing device loan program. The program provides 30-day loans with the option of extending the loan period. A wide variety of devices will be offered. However, based on a needs assessment, the initial focus of the device loan program will be on augmentative and alternative communication devices, since this device category is in greatest demand.

### **Device Demonstration**

WATR has a demonstration center located at the University of Wyoming's College of Health Sciences Building with a comprehensive inventory of devices for demonstration. Should someone need devices demonstrated that WATR does not have, there are other informal AT demonstration centers that focus on specific equipment, such as those for vision disabilities and hearing disabilities.

### **State Leadership Activities**

WATR will provide skills-development training in assessing the need for AT. It also will work with the Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and WYCORP to provide training and technical assistance that will increase the AT competencies of employment counselors in the areas of skills development, assessments and implementation and integration of AT into service plans. WATR also will provide training about the application of AT to meet education and independent living goals. To promote public awareness of AT and to provide an information resource, WATR supports Connect Wyoming, a Web-based resource that allows Wyoming residents and professionals to have access to information about equipment and devices, vendor and price information. It also has links to the device loan and the device reutilization programs.

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<sup>14</sup> The Web site, [www.atmatch.com](http://www.atmatch.com), is currently expired as of Nov. 6, 2008.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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Lead Agency: District of Columbia Rehabilitation Services Administration  
Implementing Entity: University Legal Services  
Program Title: Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia (ATPDC)

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### **State Financing Activities**

ATPDC will provide the AT Financial Loan Program (DC-ATFLP) to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. City First Bank of Washington, D.C., will administer the operations of the DC-ATFLP in partnership with the ATPDC. Loans are limited to a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$5,000 at a 5 percent reduced interest rate. People with disabilities and family members may apply for a loan directly with City First Bank of D.C. or the ATPDC.

### **Device Reutilization**

ATPDC will collaborate with the District of Columbia Center for Independent Living (DCCIL), the Washington Area Wheelchair Society, Independent Living for the Handicapped (ILH) and other organizations to provide new and used AT devices and durable medical equipment to residents who are in need. Individuals with disabilities will be able to access the recycling program on ATPDC's Web site, which will provide information about where and how to obtain equipment, how to make donations and how to use a real-time inventory of available AT.

### **Device Loan**

ATPDC operates the Assistive Technology Equipment Lending Program (ATELP) through the D.C. Assistive Technology Resource Center. ATELP has an inventory of over 300 AT devices, and the program enables all individuals with disabilities to try out and borrow equipment without any cost. In addition to a phone, fax and TTY number, the ATELP will offer a Web site that users can visit to learn about the program, view the inventory list and request a device through an online application.

### **Device Demonstration**

ATPDC will operate the District of Columbia Assistive Technology Resource Center (DCATRC). The DCATRC contains over 350 items of AT ranging from specially designed toys for infants and toddlers, electronic dictionaries, software for learning disabilities, screen reading software for persons with visual disabilities and computer hardware for mobility impairments. ATPDC will collaborate with vendors and specialized AT experts to provide demonstrations of a variety of AT devices. All demonstrations will provide a list of the devices, their application and costs and catalogs or Web sites for purchasing information.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ATPDC staff will develop training modules that will involve integrating practical experience and hands-on applications with a discussion of theory and policy as well as ongoing follow up and support to reinforce and refresh the content for those who initially request training.

ATPDC's information and referral service mails materials on the benefits and cost of AT devices and services.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: PUERTO RICO**

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Lead Agency:	University of Puerto Rico
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program (PRATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

PRATP will conduct two state financing activities: (1) a feasibility study to determine if an alternative financing system is better suited for consumers in Puerto Rico and how to implement it and (2) a low-cost device design and development program. For the feasibility study, PRATP will conduct an initial survey of potential partners and available resources for the development of an alternative financing system. The low-cost device design and development program will allow consumers to work with the AT Development Team (ATDT) to obtain functional AT equipment. The ATDT will design and construct an adapted device for those who could not otherwise acquire such an item. In most cases, the intended consumer will provide all equipment and materials needed for the construction of the device. The ATDT also will train the individual on the use of the adapted device.

### **Device Reutilization**

PRATP will develop an accessible online database where individuals may list AT items to buy, sell or donate or express a need for a specific device. This project named “Classificado Virtual de AT” (Online AT Ads) will be hosted at PRATP’s Web page.

### **Device Loan**

PRATP will conduct two initiatives to provide short-term device loans: (1) create an Assistive Technology Loan Center and (2) assign funds to rent high-cost AT or highly specialized equipment from manufacturers for loaning purposes. A new AT loan center will be developed based on the infrastructure of PRATP’s existing demonstration center. The rental of AT devices from manufacturers will be coordinated by PRATP through the External Rental Program, which will assist consumers to rent AT devices.

### **Device Demonstration**

PRATP operates a demonstration center that provides services to the general community and plans to integrate a project called “the adaptive home” so consumers have access to AT demos in a realistic setting (real kitchen adaptations, bathroom accessibility features, environmental control devices). PRATP also collaborates with AmeriCorps for the development of resource centers at public and private universities and plans to acquire a mobile unit to increase the number and variety of devices demonstrated.

### **State Leadership Activities**

PRATP provides training to over 5,000 individuals islandwide each year and has developed a train-the-trainers program to increase the number of AT instructors. In collaboration with public and private entities, PRATP will maintain an information and referral system to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities in Puerto Rico.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: AMERICAN SAMOA**

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Lead Agency:	American Samoa Department of Human & Social Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	American Samoa Assistive Technology Service Project (ASATS)

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### **State Financing Activities**

In partnership with the Development Bank of American Samoa, American Samoa will administer an alternative financing program (AFP). The AFP will negotiate lower interest rates with Development Bank and provide loan guarantees in the event a borrower defaults on a loan. The AT Program also plans to provide direct oversight of a revolving loan fund with a low interest rate.

### **Device Reutilization**

The AT Program will operate the Coconut Connection Program (CCP). CCP will set up partnerships with entities that use AT equipment and place ads asking those who no longer use an AT device to donate or sell the item for the purpose of reutilization. Used AT devices will be listed by category on a standard inventory list available from the AT program and at the Development Bank of American Samoa.

### **Device Loan**

The AT Program will partner with LBJ Tropical Medical Center and the Department of Education, Division of Special Education, to loan specialized equipment to local consumers with disabilities. The borrower will pay for shipping costs of the equipment and a rental fee will allow American Samoa to sustain the program and update equipment as needed.

### **Device Demonstration**

The AT Program will operate a device demonstration program by partnering with several entities including the American Samoa Community College and the American Samoa Department of Commerce.

### **State Leadership Activities**

American Samoa's AT Program will use a multifaceted approach (mailings, Internet, exhibits, presentations and trainings) to increase awareness about the benefits, types and funding of AT devices and services. The AT Program will sponsor an annual conference, provide an information and referral service, distribute a newsletter, develop a Web site and disseminate training materials and publications on AT for a variety of audiences.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: GUAM**

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Lead Agency:	University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (Guam CEDDERS)
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT)

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**State Financing Activities**

GSAT will conduct an alternative financing program and an Access to Telework Loan Program. Guam Options for Alternative Loans-Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT) Program will assist citizens with disabilities by providing loan guarantees to secure the technology they need to increase independence and improve their quality of life. The Get Guam Teleworking (GGT) Program will support bank loans for individuals with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment so they can telework.

**Device Reutilization**

GSAT will work collaboratively to maintain a device reutilization program for all Guam residents to improve the acquisition of AT in education, employment and community living. The program will accept used equipment and, if cost-effective, repair the AT device and place the item for sale at the GSAT Demonstration and Recycling Center. The AT device will be sold at the cost for repair (materials and labor) on a first-come, first-served basis to any Guam resident that is in need of the specific device.

**Device Loan**

GSAT's device loan program offers access to all AT equipment available at the center for a free, one-month trial use. The program assists consumers to make an informed choice by providing the opportunity to try and practice a device in an appropriate setting.

**Device Demonstration**

GSAT will conduct monthly demonstrations focusing on specific AT devices at the Demonstration and Recycling Center in addition to working collaboratively with disability- and health-related agencies to enhance participation in conferences, employer job fairs and other AT activities. The program plans to coordinate annual demonstrations to all employees at each public school in Guam; to senior citizens and employees at each senior citizen center; and to teachers, students and all employees at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College.

**State Leadership Activities**

GSAT conducts regular training and technical assistance on the selection, use and acquisition of AT devices and services. The program plans such activities as establishing contracts to provide training to vocational rehabilitation counselors and staff at Guam's One-Stop Career Centers. GSAT offers free information and referral services; disseminates training materials and publications that cover AT; and plans to develop a Web site in collaboration with the University of Guam as well as include AT-related information and resources in the university's quarterly newsletter.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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Lead Agency:	Council on Developmental Disabilities
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Systems of Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (STRAID)

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### **State Financing Activities**

STRAID will provide an alternative financing program that will be operated by the Center for Independent Living with a partnership with the Bank of Saipan. Through the loan program, people with disabilities will be able to receive loan guarantees and interest rate buy downs on loans to make them more affordable so that they can borrow funds to purchase AT.

### **Device Reutilization**

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has several informal AT reuse programs, but there is no formal program currently in operation. Over the next three years, the AT program will work to establish a formal online AT device identification and location program. The need for more AT devices and device repair and maintenance are critical needs on the islands.

### **Device Loan**

CNMI has a small-device loan program. Over the next three years, it will expand the number and type of devices in its inventory to make it more comprehensive. It also will develop collaborative partnerships with entities on the islands to increase the selection and awareness of devices available.

### **Device Demonstration**

An annual conference is hosted in CNMI at which AT devices are demonstrated. Agencies, vendors and private individuals display all types of devices and demonstrate their uses. This conference will continue. In addition, periodic and alternative demonstration activities will be conducted, using the resources available through the online AT device identification and location program.

### **State Leadership Activities**

A joint services Web site will be developed to provide a clearinghouse-type resource about AT programs and services for the community and service providers. The Center for Independent Living then will become the clearinghouse for AT information.

**STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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Lead Agency:	University of the Virgin Islands
Implementing Entity:	Not applicable
Program Title:	Virgin Islands Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (VITRAID)

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**State Financing Activities**

VITRAID provides low-interest loans to individuals with disabilities and family members through an alternative financing program for the purchase of AT devices. The Virgin Islands Assistive Technology Foundation, a community based organization, administers the AFP in partnership with Banco Popular De Puerto Rico to provide loan-guarantee and interest buy down of approved loans.

**Device Reutilization**

VITRAID administers TECH TRADE, a program in which an individual can buy, sell or give away used AT through want ads. VITRAID works to expand and improve TECH TRADE and encourage individuals with disabilities who have received durable medical equipment to recycle this equipment through TECH TRADE. VITRAID also administers Recycle IT, which is a reclamation center for computers as well as general AT devices. Recycle IT makes minor refurbishments—and, in the case of some computers and computer applications, adds required adaptations—and provides loans to individuals with disabilities.

**Device Loan**

VITRAID partners with the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education through neighborhood schools, the Virgin Islands' Family Information Network and Work Able Inc. to operate an AT device loan program. Through collaboration with VITRAID, students and others receive access to needed AT devices and services, which enable them to meet their education and transitioning needs. Individuals with disabilities who have a need for AT but are uncertain about which device meets their needs best are able to utilize devices provided through VITRAID and the partner organization so that individuals can try the devices before buying.

**Device Demonstration**

Device demonstrations are presented through annual conferences to people with disabilities throughout the community, to school-aged students in the public schools, University of the Virgin Islands' students, seniors and service providers at fairs and events throughout the year. VITRAID also will partner with other entities, including the public libraries and community and faith-based organizations in central and outlying areas of the Virgin Islands, to establish demonstration programs.

**State Leadership Activities**

VITRAID is working with the library systems of St. Croix and St. Thomas to make their computer systems more accessible to patrons. It also is working with faculty of the University of the Virgin Island to make the curricula accessible. VITRAID will provide a toll-free information and referral service; a Web site; a quarterly newsletter; an annual AT conference in collaboration with partners; and publications on AT.



## **APPENDIX C**

# **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE GRANTS FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS<sup>15</sup>**

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<sup>15</sup> Information included in this appendix is current as of October 2008.



## **ALABAMA**

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Alabama Statewide Technology Access and  
Response (STAR) System  
2125 East South Blvd.  
P.O. Box 20752  
Montgomery, AL 36120-0752  
Web: <http://www.rehab.state.al.us/star>

## **ALASKA**

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Alaska Statewide Assistive  
Technology Program  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
801 W. 10th St., Suite A  
Anchorage, AK 99801  
Web: <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/at/>

## **AMERICAN SAMOA**

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American Samoa Assistive Technology  
Service Project (ASATS)  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Department of Human Resources  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

## **ARIZONA**

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Arizona Technology Access Program  
(AzTAP)  
Institute for Human Development  
Northern Arizona University  
2400 N. Central Ave., Suite 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Web: <http://www.nau.edu/ihd/aztap>

## **ARKANSAS**

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Arkansas Increasing Capabilities  
Access Network (ICAN)  
Arkansas Department of  
Workforce Education  
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services  
26 Corporate Hill Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
Web: <http://www.Arkansas-ican.org>

## **CALIFORNIA**

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California Assistive Technology Systems  
(CATS)  
California Department of Rehabilitation  
2000 Evergreen  
P.O. Box 944222  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2220  
Web: <http://www.atnet.org>

## **COLORADO**

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Colorado Assistive Technology Partners  
601 E. Eighteenth Ave., Suite 130  
Denver, CO 80203  
Web: <http://www.uchsc.edu/atp/>

## **CONNECTICUT**

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Connecticut Assistive Technology Project  
25 Sigourney St. 11th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Web: <http://www.CTtechact.com>

## **DELAWARE**

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Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative  
(DATI)  
Center for Applied Science & Engineering  
University of Delaware, Alfred I. DuPont  
Hospital for Children  
1600 Rockland Road  
P.O. Box 269  
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269  
Web: <http://www.dati.org>

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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Assistive Technology Program for the  
District of Columbia  
University Legal Services  
220 I St., NE, Suite 130  
Washington, DC 20002  
Web: <http://www.atpdc.org>

## **FLORIDA**

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Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and  
Technology (FAAST)  
325 John Knox Road, Building 400,  
Suite 402  
Tallahassee, FL 32303-4151  
Web: <http://faast.org>

## **GEORGIA**

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Georgia Tools for Life  
Georgia Department of Labor  
Vocational Rehabilitation Program  
Assistive Technology Unit  
1700 Century Circle, Suite B-4  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
Web: <http://www.gatfl.org>

## **GUAM**

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Guam System for Assistive Technology  
(GSAT)  
University of Guam  
Guam Center for Excellence in  
Developmental Disabilities, Education,  
Research and Service (Guam CEDDERS)  
UOG Station  
303 University Drive, House #19  
Dean Circle  
Mangilao, Guam 96923  
Web: <http://www.guamcedders.org>

## **HAWAII**

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Assistive Technology Resource Centers of  
Hawaii (ATRC)  
414 Kuwili St., Suite 104  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Web: <http://www.atrc.org>

## **IDAHO**

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Idaho Assistive Technology Project  
129 West Third St.  
Moscow, ID 83844-4401  
Web: <http://www.educ.uidaho.edu/idatech>

## **ILLINOIS**

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Illinois Assistive Technology Program  
1 W. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 100  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Web: <http://www.iltech.org>

## **INDIANA**

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INDiana Assistive Technology Act  
(INDATA)  
A division of Easter Seals Crossroads  
4740 Kingsway Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
Web: <http://www.eastersealscrossroads.org>  
<http://www.eastersealstech.com>

## **IOWA**

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Iowa Program for Assistive Technology  
Center for Disabilities and Development  
100 Hawkins Drive, Room 5295  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1011  
Web: <http://www.uiowa.edu/infotech>

## **KANSAS**

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Assistive Technology for Kansans Project  
2601 Gabriel  
Parsons, KS 67357  
Web: <http://www.atk.ku.edu>

## **KENTUCKY**

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Kentucky Assistive Technology Service  
(KATS) Network  
Charles McDowell Center  
8412 Westport Road  
Louisville, KY 40242  
Web: <http://www.katsnet.org>

## **LOUISIANA**

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Louisiana Assistive Technology Access  
Network (LATAN)  
3042 Old Forge Road, Suite D  
P.O. Box 14115  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4115  
Web: <http://www.latan.org>

## **MAINE**

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Maine Consumer Information and  
Technology Training Exchange (CITE)  
Maine CITE Coordinating Center  
46 University Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Web: <http://www.maine cite.org>

## **MARYLAND**

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Maryland Technology Assistance Program  
(MD TAP)  
Department of Disabilities  
2301 Argonne Drive, Room T17  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Web: <http://www.md tap.org>

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

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Massachusetts Assistive Technology  
Act Program  
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission  
27 Wormwood St., Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02210  
Web: <http://www.mass.gov>

## **MICHIGAN**

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Michigan Assistive Technology Project  
c/o Michigan Disability Rights Coalition  
740 W. Lake Lansing Road, Suite 200  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
Web: <http://www.copower.org/AT/index.htm>

## **MINNESOTA**

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Minnesota STAR Program  
50 Sherburne Ave., Room 309  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Web: <http://www.starprogram.state.mn.us>

## **MISSISSIPPI**

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Mississippi Project START  
P.O. Box 1698  
Jackson, MS 39215-1000  
Web: <http://www.msprojectstart.org>

## **MISSOURI**

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Missouri Assistive Technology Project  
4731 South Cochise, Suite 114  
Independence, MO 64055-6975  
Web: <http://www.at.mo.gov>

## **MONTANA**

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MonTECH Program  
Rural Institute  
University of Montana  
634 Eddy Ave., CHC-009  
Missoula, MT 59812  
Web: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu>

## **NEBRASKA**

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Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership  
5143 South 48th St., Suite C  
Lincoln, NE 68516-2204  
Web: <http://www.atp.ne.gov>

## **NEVADA**

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Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Office of Disability Service  
3656 Research Way, Suite 32  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Web: [http://dhhs.nv.gov/ODS\\_Programs.htm](http://dhhs.nv.gov/ODS_Programs.htm)

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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Assistive Technology in New Hampshire  
(ATinNH)  
University of New Hampshire  
Institute on Disability/UCE  
10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101  
Durham, NH 03824  
Web: <http://www.iod.unh.edu/atinnh.html>

## **NEW JERSEY**

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Assistive Technology Advocacy Center  
New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc.  
210 South Broad St., 3rd Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
Web: <http://www.njpanda.org>

## **NEW MEXICO**

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New Mexico Technology  
Assistance Program  
435 St. Michael's Drive, Building D  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Web: <http://www.nmtap.com>

## **NEW YORK**

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New York State TRAIID Program  
NYS Commission on Quality Care and  
Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities  
(CQCAPD)  
401 State St.  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
Web: <http://www.cqcapd.state.ny.us>

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

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North Carolina Assistive  
Technology Program  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services  
1110 Navaho Drive, Suite 101  
Raleigh, NC 27609-7322  
Web: <http://www.ncatp.org>

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

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North Dakota Interagency Program for  
Assistive Technology (IPAT)  
3509 Interstate Blvd.  
Fargo, ND 58103  
Web: <http://www.ndipat.org>

## **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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Systems of Technology-Related Assistance  
for Individuals with Disabilities (STRAID)  
CNMI Council on  
Developmental Disabilities  
P.O. Box 502565  
Saipan, MP 96950-2565  
Web: <http://www.cnmicdd.org>

## **OHIO**

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Assistive Technology of Ohio  
445 East Dublin Granville Road, Building L  
Worthington, OH 43085  
Web: <http://www.atohio.org>

## **OKLAHOMA**

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Oklahoma ABLE Tech  
Seretean Wellness Center  
Oklahoma State University  
1514 W. Hall of Fame  
Stillwater, OK 74078-2026  
Web: <http://okabletech.okstate.edu>

## **OREGON**

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Access Technologies, Inc.  
Oregon Department of Human Services  
(DHS), Seniors and People with  
Disabilities (SPD)  
3070 Lancaster Drive N.E.  
Salem, OR 97305-1396  
Web: <http://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org>

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

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Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive  
Technology (PIAT)  
Institute on Disabilities/UCEDD University  
Services Building  
Suite 610  
Temple University  
1601 North Broad St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
Web: <http://disabilities.temple.edu>

## **PUERTO RICO**

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Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program  
(PRATP)  
University of Puerto Rico  
Central Administration/FILIUS Instituto  
Assistive Technology Institute  
Jardin Botanico Sur  
1187 Calle Flamboyán  
San Juan, PR 00926-1117  
Web: <http://www.pratp.upr.edu>

## **RHODE ISLAND**

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Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access  
Partnership (ATAP)  
Office of Rehabilitation Services  
40 Fountain St.  
Providence, RI 02903  
Web: <http://www.atap.state.ri.us>

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

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South Carolina Assistive Technology Project  
USC School of Medicine  
University Center for Excellence  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Web: <http://www.sc.edu/scatp>

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

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DakotaLink  
South Dakota Assistive Technology Project  
1161 Deadwood Ave., Suite #5  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
Web: <http://DakotaLink.tie.net>

## **TENNESSEE**

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Tennessee Technology Access Project  
(TTAP)  
Citizens Plaza, 14th Floor  
400 Deaderick St.  
Nashville, TN 37248-6000  
Web: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehab/ttap.html>

## **TEXAS**

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Texas Assistive Technology Project  
Texas Center for Disability Studies  
University of Texas at Austin  
4030-2 West Braker Lane, Suite 220  
Austin, TX 78759  
Web: <http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu>

## **U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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Virgin Islands Technology-Related  
Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities  
(VITRAID)  
University of the Virgin Islands/UCE  
#2 John Brewers Bay  
St. Thomas, U.S. VI 00801-0990  
Web: <http://www.uvi.edu/sites/uvi/Pages/VIUCEDD-Home.aspx?s=CO>

## **UTAH**

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Utah Assistive Technology Program  
Center for Persons with Disabilities  
6855 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-6855  
Web: <http://www.uatpat.org>

## **VERMONT**

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Vermont Assistive Technology Program  
103 South Main St.  
Weeks Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2305  
Web: <http://www.dad.state.vt.us/atp>

## **VIRGINIA**

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Virginia Assistive Technology System  
(VATS)  
8004 Franklin Farms Drive  
P.O. Box K-300  
Richmond, VA 23288-0300  
Web: <http://www.vats.org>

## **WASHINGTON**

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Washington Assistive Technology Act  
Program (WATAP)  
University of Washington  
Center for Technology and Disability Studies  
CHDD South Building, Room 104  
Box 357920  
Seattle, WA 98195-7920  
Web: <http://wata.org>

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

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West Virginia Assistive Technology System  
(WVATS)  
West Virginia Center for Excellence  
in Disabilities  
Airport Research and Office Park  
955 Hartman Run Road  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
Web: <http://cedwvu.org/programs/wvats>

## **WISCONSIN**

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Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program  
(WisTech)  
Division of Disability and Elder Services  
P.O. Box 7851  
1 W. Wilson St., Room 1151  
Madison, WI 53707-7851  
Web: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech>

## **WYOMING**

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Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources  
(WATR)  
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)  
University of Wyoming  
Box 4298  
Laramie, WY 82072-4298  
Web: <http://wind.uwyo.edu/watr>

**APPENDIX D**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR**

**ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS**

**FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006<sup>16</sup>**

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<sup>16</sup> Information included in this appendix is current as of October 2008.



## **ALABAMA**

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Alabama Loan Program  
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services  
2125 East South Blvd.  
P.O. Box 20752  
Montgomery, AL 36120-0752

## **ARIZONA**

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Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology Program (AzLAT)  
Northern Arizona University  
Institute for Human Development  
2400 North Central Ave., Suite 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Web: <http://www.azlat.org>

## **ARKANSAS**

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Arkansas Technology Alternative Financing Project  
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services  
4601 West Markham  
Little Rock, AR 72205

## **DELAWARE**

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Delaware Loan Program  
Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative  
University of Delaware  
1600 Rockland Road  
P.O. Box 269  
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269

## **FLORIDA**

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Florida Alternative Financing Program  
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST, Inc.)  
325 John Knox Road, Building 400, Suite 402  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

## **GEORGIA**

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The Center for Financial Independence and Innovation  
1419 Mayson St., NE  
Atlanta, GA 30324

## **GUAM**

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Guam Options for Alternative Loans – Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT)  
University of Guam CEDDERS  
UOG Station  
303 University Drive, House #19 Dean Circle  
Mangilao, Guam 96923

## **ILLINOIS**

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TechConnect Low Interest Loan Program  
Illinois Assistive Technology Program  
1 West Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 100  
Springfield, IL 62701-1200

## **IOWA**

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Iowa Able Loan Program  
Abilities Fund  
410 North 18th St.  
Centerville, IA 52544  
Web: <http://www.abilitiesfund.org>

Iowa Able Foundation  
State Public Policy Group  
200 10th St., Fifth Floor  
Des Moines, IA 50309

## **KANSAS**

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Alternative Financing Program  
Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative  
625 Merchant, Suite 205  
Emporia, KS 66801

## **KENTUCKY**

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Loan Initiative Networking Kentuckians for Assistive Technology (LINK AT)  
Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation  
209 St. Clair St.  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Web: <http://www.katlc.ky.gov>

## **LOUISIANA**

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Louisiana Assistive Technology Loan Program  
Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)  
3042 Old Forge Road, Suite D  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
Web: <http://www.latan.org>

## **MAINE**

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Maine Loan Program  
Maine Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange (CITE)  
Maine CITE Coordinating Center  
46 University Drive  
Augusta, ME 043330

## **MARYLAND**

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Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program  
Maryland Technology Assistance Program  
2301 Argonne Drive, Room T-17  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Web: <http://www.mdtp.org>

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

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Massachusetts AT Loan Program  
Easter Seals Massachusetts  
484 Main St.  
Worcester, MA 01608

## **MICHIGAN**

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Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund  
c/o U.C.P. Michigan  
3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 216  
Lansing, MI 48912  
Web: <http://www.mi-atlf.org>

## **MINNESOTA**

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ATMN Micro-loan Program  
Assistive Technology of Minnesota  
1800 Pioneer Creek Center, Box 310  
Maple Plain, MN 55359-0310  
Web: <http://www.atmn.org>

## **MISSOURI**

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Show Me Loans  
Missouri Assistive Technology Council  
4731 South Cochise #114  
Independence, MO 64055-6975

## **NEBRASKA**

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Nebraska Alternative Financing Loan Program  
Easter Seals Nebraska  
638 North 109th Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68154

## **NEVADA**

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Nevada Assistive Technology Loan Fund  
CareChest  
7910 N. Virginia St.  
Reno, NV 89506

## **NEW MEXICO**

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New Mexico Loan Program  
San Juan Center for Independence  
3535 E. 30th, Suite 101  
Farmington, NM 87402

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

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North Dakota AT Loan Program  
North Dakota Association for the Disabled  
2660 South Columbia Road  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

## **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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Trankilu Loan Program  
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas  
Council on Developmental Disabilities  
P.O. Box 502565  
Saipan, MP 96950-2565  
Web: <http://www.cnmicdd.org>

## **OKLAHOMA**

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Oklahoma Alternative Financing Program  
Oklahoma ABLE Tech  
1514 West Hall of Fame  
Stillwater, OK 74078-2026

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

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Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation  
1004 West Ninth Ave., First Floor  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Web: <http://www.patf.us>

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

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South Carolina Assistive Technology Loan Program (SC AT)  
Vocational Rehabilitation Department  
1410 Boston Ave.  
West Columbia, SC 29171

## **U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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U.S. Virgin Islands Loan Program  
University of the Virgin Islands  
#2 John Brewer's Bay  
St. Thomas, U.S.VI 00802

## **UTAH**

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Alternative Financing Program  
Utah Assistive Technology Foundation (UATF)  
Center for Persons with Disabilities  
6835 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322  
Web: <http://www.uatf.org>

## **VERMONT**

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Vermont Assistive Technology Fund  
Opportunities Ventures  
18 Pearl St.  
Burlington, VT 05401

## **VIRGINIA**

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Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority (ATLFA)  
1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 107  
Richmond, VA 23229  
Web: <http://www.atlfa.org>

## **WASHINGTON**

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Washington Access Fund  
Washington Assistive Technology Foundation  
100 South King, Suite 280  
Seattle, WA 98104

## **WISCONSIN**

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WisLoan  
Independence First  
600 W. Virginia St., Suite 401  
Milwaukee, WI 53204-1516  
Web: <http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm>

## **WYOMING**

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Wyoming Technology Access Program (WYTAP)  
Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc.  
305 West First St.  
Casper, WY 82601



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